

Jordan Times

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Cordovez begins new Afghan shuttle

ISLAMABAD (R) — A U.N. mediator began talks with Pakistani authorities on Saturday on the format of future talks for an Afghan peace settlement which he says both the United States and the Soviet Union are ready to guarantee. Pakistani officials gave no details of the first formal session between United Nations Under-Secretary-General Diego Cordovez and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqub Khan but said they would meet again on Sunday. Mr. Cordovez, who was also due to meet President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, is preparing for a new round of the U.N.-sponsored indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan which began in Geneva in 1982. Mr. Cordovez arrived early on Saturday for another shuttle between Islamabad and the Afghan capital of Kabul to try to break a deadlock on the format for the future talks. Kabul says.

GCC oil ministers study new strategy

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and his counterparts in the six other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met here Saturday to devise a collective policy on oil production and pricing, in preparation for the OPEC emergency conference. With Sheikh Yamani were the oil ministers of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. "The Riyadh meeting is designed to coordinate GCC oil policies at this critical stage in the oil market," said UAE Oil Minister Mansour bin Zayed. "The meeting will contribute to creating conditions conducive to enabling OPEC to confront this crisis."

Gemayel sends good wishes to Assad

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel sent a warmly-worded telegram to Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad on Saturday on the 23rd anniversary of the revolution which brought the Baath Party to power in Damascus. (See page 2). Relations between the two presidents were strained by the Jan. 15 collapse of a Syrian-backed peace pact and Syria's allies in Lebanon demanded that Gemayel endorse it or resign. In the telegram, Mr. Gemayel conveyed his "heart-felt wishes for relations between our two countries to remain close and distinguished by the spirit of fraternity and solidarity, reflecting the historical and geographical ties that link us."

Bush leaves Tunis after visit

TUNIS (R) — American Vice-President George Bush left for Lisbon Saturday afternoon after a brief visit to Tunisia aimed at tightening ties with a longstanding U.S. ally in North Africa. Mr. Bush held talks with 83-year-old President Habib Bourguiba during his six-hour stay on his way to attend the inauguration ceremonies of Portuguese President Mario Soares. Bush said after meeting Mr. Bourguiba that the United States "had enormous respect" for him. (Earlier story on page 2).

Spaniard willing to testify Israel has wrong man

SABADELL, Spain (AP) — A Spanish civil war veteran who was interviewed in the Treblinka concentration camp says he is willing to sign a sworn statement that the man Israel plans to try for the alleged murder of thousands of camp inmates is not the infamous camp guard nicknamed "Ivan the Terrible." The national news agency EFE said Saturday. Israel plans to try John Demjanjuk, 65, a retired steelworker from Cleveland, Ohio, who Israeli officials insist is "Ivan the Terrible." In a March 6 interview with the Dario de Sabadell, Garcia Ribes said he was convinced Demjanjuk was not "Ivan the Terrible" because the guard had been killed by a camp inmate during an August 1943 uprising.

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Mubarak says Egypt survived 'stab in dark,' urges swift reforms

'Democratisation will continue'

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak, declaring that Egypt had survived "a treacherous stab in the dark," on Saturday ordered his government to move quickly to boost the economy.

Briefing Egyptians on last week's riots by security police conscripts, Mr. Mubarak attacked Syria and Libya for branding the rampage a popular uprising and said that, on the contrary, national unity was intact.

He said without elaborating that "a few deviants" were responsible for the riots by some 17,000 police draftees, which devastated hotels near Cairo's Pyramids. At least 107 people were killed and 700 injured in the riots and clashes with troops sent in to crush the mutiny.

Security was tight as Mr. Mubarak met Prime Minister Ali Lutfi's cabinet and went to the nearby National Assembly to address the nation on Egypt's gravest crisis since he came to power in 1981 after President Anwar Sadat's assassination. The government on Saturday ended a night curfew imposed on Cairo 10 days ago, and schools and universities reopened in another sign that it believed the unrest was over.

In the nationally televised speech to parliament, Mr. Mubarak promised a full disclosure of the causes of the riots, which he described as the worst moment of his life.

Mr. Mubarak said that despite the unrest, he never considered imposing restrictions on civil liberties or rolling back on efforts to liberalise Egyptian political life. "The law shall remain the master," Mr. Mubarak said. "I say with all faith that democracy is our great edifice, a solid pyramid in our life. It never occurred to me for one moment to resort to exceptional measures."

President Mubarak used the opportunity to thank Arab and foreign leaders for expressions of support to Egypt. He specially hailed His Majesty King Hussein for the feelings of intimacy and solidarity towards Egypt during the riots. The other leaders Mr. Mubarak thanked on Saturday were: — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, "who contacted me from the war front," — Interim Sudanese leader Gen-

eral Abdul Rahman Swaroudh, — Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, — Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman, — President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, — Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, — Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, emir of Bahrain, — Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, emir of Qatar, — French President Francois Mitterrand, — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, — U.S. President Ronald Reagan and — the Kuwaiti government.

The riots were initially blamed on a rumour, denied by the government, that security force conscription was being extended by one year to four years.

Mr. Mubarak said state prosecutors were interrogating arrested rioters and he did not want to prejudge the probe by saying more about those responsible.

He stressed repeatedly that Egypt's 48 million people had "stood firm in the face of a terrible test... a treacherous stab in the back."

However, the satellites' communication facilities are used by only 13 out of the 22 Arab countries who are members in the Arabsat group and its television exchanges in the region is limited by a shortage of ground stations to receive the satellite's signals.

In a key-note address to the Amman conference, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan called on the organisation's members to make the maximum use of both satellites' telecommunications facilities and to outline future plans to ensure the adaptability of Arabsat satellites to meet forthcoming technological and cultural demands.

"We should remember that the

average life span of any normal satellite is between seven to 10 years. Hence, it is important that we should use the maximum technology it can offer us," he told the conference, entitled "The role of Arabsat in developing regional culture and education" and is organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

Prince Hassan, who also participated in the first working session of the conference, said Arabsat's television and telecommunications facilities have been used well below their standard. The Arabsat's television channels, whose cost reached 25 per cent of the total cost are semi-paralysed, he said.

Optimal use of both Arabsat satellites could be achieved once the organisation's members have completed building their ground stations to receive the satellites' signals and adequate ground networks to transmit information to and from the ground station, Prince Hassan said.

Arabsat facilities, the Prince said, could also open up new horizons of services to its users, starting with government entities such as radio, television and communication means, commercial entities and, cultural and scientific organisations and also meet the demands of the average house.

The project, if properly im-

plemented and completed, will help in realising a comprehensive pan-Arab communication network to fulfill the following goals, which, according to Prince Hassan, are:

— Upgrade information services in the areas of television, radio and news.

— Increase general and specialised education in rural and remote areas through special educational television programmes.

— Transmit cultural material for all age groups in an attempt to build a cultural rapprochement in the Arab World and eventually create an Arab-Islamic integrated culture.

Prince Hassan also said that in transmitting pan-Arab cultural and educational information, the Arab World might lay the impetus for establishing an integrated Arab information bank for cultural, scientific and informatics exchanges.

Outlining the satellites' facilities, the director general of the Telecommunication Corporation (TLC), Mohammad Shaded Ismail, presented a technical study which said:

Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen.

(Continued on page 2)

Car bomb kills 5 in E. Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A car bomb exploded on Saturday near an office of President Amin Gemayel's Falange Party in mostly Christian east Beirut, killing five civilians and two others were slain when the car exploded.

The bombing was the eighth in Beirut's eastern sector since Jan. 15 when Mr. Gemayel's loyalists crushed his Christian rivals in a bloody crackdown.

Must were aimed at Falange offices amid a campaign by Syrian-backed leftists and dissident rightists to oust Mr. Gemayel, a Maronite Catholic, from office for mediating a Syrian-backed peace accord to end Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war.

Police cast doubts over finding Palme killer

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Swedish police expressed their first doubts on Saturday about tracking down those responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme as the country's largest ever murder hunt began its second week.

Newspapers quoted senior officers as saying they had made little headway in solving the murder of Mr. Palme.

"We haven't even got a scent of the killer," one officer told the newspaper Expressen. "We haven't a single real clue."

Dagens Nyheter quoted another police officer as drawing a comparison with the attempt to kill Pope John Paul in 1981. Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca was convicted of the shooting but his motive and backing remains unclear.

"In the same way there is a great risk that the motive for the Palme killing will never come to light," the officer said.

The comments contrasted with the optimism expressed by Stockholm Police Commissioner Hans Holmer, who said Friday: "This is a tough case and we must be patient, but I'm confident that we will solve it."

He said there was a need to "clarify the vocabulary of terrorism" to pin down who is a terrorist and who is a patriot.

"To the Americans, for example, the Afghan Mujahideen are patriots while the Palestinians are terrorists," he said. "But to the Russians, the Palestinians are patriots and the Mujahideen are terrorists."

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(Continued on page 2)

Iraq reports new air raids on Kharg

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its jet fighters raided Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the Gulf waters on Saturday, while the latest tanker victim in the off-shoots of the Iran-Iraq war limped into Dubai harbour.

Dubai-based marine salvage executives said tugboats were towing the 30,000-ton Cyprus tanker Wise which was set on fire by Iranian helicopter gunships on Thursday. The Wise was sailing with a load of gasoline from Bahrain en route to Australia at the time of the attack.

The fire was extinguished after three of its Greek crewmembers were killed and 14 others injured. One crewman was reported missing and feared dead.

These executives, along with maritime shipping sources along the region, told AP the Iranian helicopter aimed its missile directly at the vessel's accommodations quarters at a time when the crew was gathered there.

"They literally aimed at the accommodations quarters which is a highly disturbing trend," said one shipping executive.

He said the Iranians were also using highly-accurate guided missiles "with the obvious intent of killing people. We are very concerned."

The Wise was the fourth commercial vessel raided since Sunday by Iranian helicopters in the central part of the Gulf waterway in retaliation for Iraq's air and sea blockade on shipping lanes around Kharg.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said Iraqi jet fighters launched a raid on the key Iranian terminal, setting their targets ablaze.

All raiding warplanes returned safely to base, added the spokesman in the radio broadcast.

Iraqi aircraft also carried out 258 sorties against Iranian troop positions at the war-front, the spokesman said.

It said that the United States had previously failed "Jordan's own endeavours for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and other resolutions and initiatives due to its total bias towards the Zionist enemy."

The statement said Jordan "realises that the danger which confronts the Jordanian as well as the Palestinian people is an attempt to

find an alternative homeland for the Palestinian people in Jordan. But the PLO, which had earlier foiled such plots of settling the Palestinians in Sinai, in South Lebanon and in Syria, now again declares that Palestine is for the Palestinians and for the Arabs and will accept no other homeland."

Jordan, the statement added, had over the past months tried hard to make the United States accept the idea of an international conference to find a just and durable solution for the Palestine problem, "but has been confronted with American refusal to recognise the Palestinian people's national rights in their homeland, and the right to self-determination."

Full text of the PLO statement will be published in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times.

PLA blames U.S. for collapse of joint effort

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Saturday issued a statement in which it said that it was keen on maintaining strong relations with Jordan and hoped to keep the relationship "safe and sound in the face of all developments because it is meant to safeguard the interest of the Jordanian and Palestinian people alike."

The statement, issued in Tunis after a top-level PLO meeting, said that the PLO insisted on securing "the basic elements for a solution to the Palestine problem which is a prerequisite for a just peace."

The disagreement with Jordan is originally a disagreement with the United States which had

hoped to put pressure on the PLO, and the PLO regrets that King Hussein's speech to the nation last month put the blame on the organisation, vindicting the United States, which should actually take the blame for aborting the Jordanian-PLO joint moves," the statement said.

It said that the PLO would like to point out that the United States had previously failed "Jordan's own endeavours for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and other resolutions and initiatives due to its total bias towards the Zionist enemy."

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Hamzeh: Vaccination efforts successful

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh has described an on-going national vaccination programme against tetanus and measles as already successful one week after it has started and called on all government departments to facilitate the implementation of the programme in all regions. The minister was addressing a seminar in Amman on the role of government departments in supporting the national campaign and facilitating the work of health teams. The Health Ministry's campaigns over the years have helped to reduce the risk of epidemics and reduced the mortality rate among children who are more prone than others to contract diseases, the minister said. He said that by reducing the chances of such diseases as measles, polio and tetanus and diphtheria the ministry has contributed to the economic and social development of the country.

Van den Broek leaves after talks with Crown Prince

By Sa'ad G. Hattar with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek left Amman Saturday following an overnight visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials.

No details were revealed on the talks. Reports from The Hague said on Friday Mr. Van den Broek was to initiate a round of ministerial and diplomatic contacts as part of a European Community (EC) effort to break the current stalemate in Middle East peace efforts.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Van den Broek's talks here covered Jordan-EC cooperation and means to further boost them. It did not give details.

Jordanian officials were not immediately available for comment.

The King received Mr. Van den Broek Friday evening and the Crown Prince and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri held separate meetings with the Dutch minister on Saturday. A spokesman for the Dutch consulate in Amman would only say that Mr. Van den Broek's visit was in his capacity as an EC official.

An EC spokesman told the Jordan Times he was not officially informed of the visit by Mr. Van den Broek.

The Dutch, current holders of the rotating EC presidency, were asked at a meeting of community foreign ministers to make fresh contact with Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and other parties in the Middle East conflict and seek ways to revive the stalled peace process.

The latest such move was the "unceremonious demand" for reductions in personnel at the Soviet, Byelorussian and Ukrainian U.N. missions, it added.

The State Department announcement on Friday said the staff of 275 at the Soviet mission must be cut to 170 in four stages by 1988 while the other two missions would be limited to 10 diplomats each.

"The United States has continued to insist that the PLO recognise Resolutions 242 and 338 and Israel's right to exist within secure boundaries in exchange for the United States' acceptance of the PLO to participate in the projected international conference," the statement added.

The statement said that "self-determination is a sacred right guaranteed by international agreements and the United Nations Charter, and the Palestinian people under its PLO leadership, has all the right to pursue the struggle to liberate Palestinian land."

Full text of the PLO statement will be published in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times.

Threat to kill French diplomat sharpens concern for hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad (holy war) Saturday threatened to kill one of two kidnapped French diplomats, sharpening concern for the safety of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

The unidentified caller told two international news agencies here the life of one of the diplomats would be at risk unless France met Islamic Jihad's demands promptly.

"Any negligence or procrastination will endanger the lives of (Marcel) Carton or (Marcel) Fontaine, especially now we have begun to think seriously of executing one of them," he said.

The clandestine organisation issued a statement three days ago saying it had "executed" French Arabist Michel Saurat, but so far no evidence of his death has been found.

Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for seizing five Americans and four Frenchmen, including Saurat. It links their release with Iran-Iraq war issues and Middle East national imprisonment abroad for political violence.

Mr. Saurat's reported killing has prompted a political furor in France ahead of general elections there, and the government has said it might have erred in expelling two anti-government Iraqis to Baghdad last month.

The caller read a statement which added two new demands —

napped in Beirut where he lives rather than on the airport road... I consider the French government is too late in finding a solution to this problem," she told the newspaper.

Saurat was abducted with French journalist Jean-Paul Kaufmann last May 22, soon after they arrived at Beirut airport. Vice-Consul Fontaine, 43, and embassy attaché Carton, 62, were both kidnapped in Beirut on March 22 last year.

Saturday's caller repeated demands that France should halt military and financial aid to Iraq in its war with Iran, and free Muslims imprisoned in France for their bid to kill former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980.

His statement struck out at French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas for saying in a Paris radio interview that the hostages' captors would be held responsible for their actions.

"No, Dumas. Your foolish threats will not frighten us because of our advance knowledge that you are incapable of any action... Enough with your boasting and prattling... It is better for you to implement our conditions," it said.

Relatives of one of six Americans believed abducted in Lebanon Friday night appealed to the kidnappers to discuss their demands with the U.S. government.

"I think there was a mistake. If Saurat was the target for kidnapping he would have been kid-

napped in Beirut where he lives rather than on the airport road... I consider the French government is too late in finding a solution to this problem," she told the newspaper.

The appeal was broadcast by a Falangist television station in east Beirut.

Fr. Jenco's relatives said they had met President Ronald Reagan and Vice-President George Bush, travelled through 19 U.S. states and visited 75 cities in their bid to free Fr. Jenco and his fellow American hostages.

An American, diplomat William Buckley, was said to have been killed by Islamic Jihad but his body has not been found.

The group linked Saurat's "execution" with French support for Iraq in its Gulf war with Iran and its expulsions last month of 30 Middle Eastern nationals after bomb attacks in Paris that wounded 21 people.

There has been no independent evidence of Saurat's death.

Mary Saurat told Reuters Friday that talks to secure the freedom of the French hostages had been near success at the start of 1986, but the captors apparently decided that concessions offered by Paris were not sufficient.

"He's not dead," she said. "Do you believe he's dead? How can they execute someone who has always defended their cause? This claim is the most vicious of their actions."

Chad shifts from drought relief to development

By Robert Weller
Associated Press

OUADI RAMBO, Chad (AP) — Berangoto Baieroune waited more than a year for a four-wheel drive truck so he no longer had to hitchhike to agricultural projects he supervises on the edge of the Sahara.

Within weeks of the truck's delivery, it was destroyed by a bazooka round.

Government troops had commandeered the Chadian official's

truck, to help repel a Libyan-backed rebel attack on Ziguiey, 80 kilometres to the north.

Baieroune's predicament typifies problems in the country which, according to the world bank, had the lowest per capita income — \$80 a year — of any country for which figures were available.

The landlocked Sahel country has to contend with the southward advance of the Sahara desert, recurrent drought and a civil war that has disrupted development for

more than 20 years.

Chad received more than 200,000 tons of food aid during last year's disastrous drought. But now that the immediate emergency is largely over, relief agencies are focusing on development of the nation's meagre resources.

Retired British Brig.-Gen. Tony Mornement, director of the World Food Programme in Chad, is using the tons of food at his disposal to pay for the construction of schools.

He also feeds workers who reclaim Ouedis — ravines where water settles during the brief Sahel rainfalls — so that they can produce enough food to support nearby villages.

"We want to try to not give food forever. We don't want to perpetuate an aid dependency situation," Gen. Mornement said.

In the capital of N'Djamena, 200 kilometres to the south, relief workers given a brief holiday because of the rebel attack debate the relief-dependency question. Some argue that there is no further drought or famine problem, and that food aid will destroy the initiative of farmers.

"We should burn all this food," said one French relief worker. The worker, who spoke on condition he not be named, said prefects (local governors) and tribal chiefs steal the food or even get agencies to give it to them to feed workers, including slaves, building housing or farming for them. Gen. Mornement's agency controls most of the food available in Chad, or the transport needed to deliver it. And it means he som-

etimes says no to very important people.

The gray-haired veteran of 31 years of military service recalled that the prefect of the Lake Chad region, 100 kilometres south of Ouadi Rambo, made an impassioned appeal for food aid. Gen. Mornement had the only available trucks, but he declined to provide them until relief workers in the area confirmed the need.

Belgian doctors visited the villages and found women wearing gold bracelets, the fruit of recent cattle sales. Gen. Mornement refused to deliver the food.

On a recent visit to the nearby regional capital of Maa, Gen. Mornement told the prefect, Mamadou Affono, he applauded the Chadian practice of democratically sharing all food aid.

But he reminded Affono the donor nations wanted the food only to go to the hungry.

The prefect, in the presence of journalists, responded that the food emergency continued, despite increased rainfall. He then asked Gen. Mornement if his agency could build houses for him and his men.

In the best diplomatic tradition, the brigadier said the prefect should make a list of his priorities and the World Food Programme would review it.

"My job is to make the best possible use of the administration," Gen. Mornement said. Without the support of the prefect and the Sultan of Maa, little could be accomplished and whatever was done would collapse as soon as the aid workers departed, he added.

Bush in Tunisia to strengthen damaged relations

TUNIS (Agencies) — American Vice-President George Bush arrived in Tunisia Saturday to strengthen links with a longstanding U.S. ally after resentment caused by Washington's approval of an Israeli raid against Palestinians.

Mr. Bush was welcomed by Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali and was due to meet 83-year-old President Habib Bourguiba.

President Reagan's approval of Israel's bombing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters on the outskirts of Tunis on Oct. 1 chilled traditionally warm Tunisian-American relations for a while.

To repair the damage Washington sent senior official John Whitehead to Tunis in October to express "deep regrets" after the bombing raid.

Mr. Bush, who is accompanied by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs, Richard Murphy, will discuss bilateral relations, the Middle East and regional problems including Tunisian-Libyan relations, diplomatic sources said.

When Mr. Bourguiba visited Washington last June, the United States reaffirmed its support for Tunisia's territorial integrity.

Relations between the two countries suffered a serious shock following the Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters. About 80 Palestinians and 20 Tunisians died in the raid.

The Tunisians were irate when Mr. Reagan called the raid justified, and a later retraction did little to change that attitude. Tunisian officials spoke of a re-examination of the country's close relations with the United States, and the U.S. embassy and cultural centre were saved from angry mobs by riot police.

Threat to break ties

The Tunisians had even threatened to break relations with the United States had it vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the raid.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said "the vice-president's visit to Tunis provides the opportunity to underscore the longstanding ties of friendship and cooperation that have been a continuing hallmark of American-Tunisian relations."

The vice-president is expected to try "to turn the page" of the Oct. 1 raid, in the words of one Tunisian newspaper. That task is seen as even more urgent with Tunisia in the process of developing a more "balanced" diplomatic position "in order to be equidistant between the two superpowers," the newspaper said.

Tunisian relations with the Soviet Union have been warming recently. For the first time, a high-level Tunisian delegation representing the ruling Destourian Socialist Party went to Moscow to attend the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party.

Hassan hints at indirect talks with Polisario

MARRAKESH, Morocco (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has hinted that he would consider indirect talks with Polisario guerrillas to settle the 10-year-old Western Sahara conflict.

But he restated his refusal to negotiate directly and said he had not yet received any proposals for talks through the intermediary of either the United Nations or the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

"Morocco has never been against discussion. But it refuses to negotiate directly" with the Algerian-backed Polisario, the king told a news conference at the royal palace late Friday night.

Asked to comment on reports that U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the current OAU chairman, Senegal's Abdou Diouf, were contemplating indirect talks between Morocco and the guerrillas, he said:

"I would be ready to read any

proposal, although I would not necessarily understand it."

He said he was ready to receive Mr. Perez de Cuellar and also Mr. Diouf, but the latter "only as a friend and the president of a friendly country, not as chairman of the OAU."

Morocco walked out of the OAU when the Polisario's Saharan Arab Democratic Republic was admitted as full member in 1984.

Asked about possible mediation in the Chad conflict, King Hassan said he had not been asked by either France or Libya "and still less to arrange a meeting between French President Francois Mitterrand and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi."

Morocco had been mentioned as a possible go-between because of its alliance with Libya, its close relations with France and its contacts with Chadian President Hissene Habre.

But King Hassan made clear at

the news conference that Morocco and Libya had different views over Chad, where Morocco recognises Mr. Habre as the legitimate head of state.

The monarch denied that a 1984 alliance between Morocco and Libya had fallen into limbo. He said he had not made a promised visit to Libya because of the situation created by United States naval manoeuvres off the Libyan coast.

Asked whether the recent rapprochement between Algeria and Tripoli could signal a rift between Morocco and Libya, he said: "We think that any rapprochement between them, far from being harmful, can only be beneficial for Morocco."

He also said he had discussed the issue of the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on Morocco's northern coast with King Juan Carlos of Spain this week "in all serenity."

Sudan rebels claim 87 troops killed in clash

LONDON (Agencies) — Sudanese rebel forces have said they killed 87 government soldiers in a battle in the southern Blue Nile region on Tuesday.

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) radio, monitored in London, said Friday fig-

hings lasted five hours, a lorry was destroyed and two mortars, four rifles and some ammunition were captured.

Rebel leader John Garang said on the radio that Rumbek, the capital of Lakes province, was captured on Wednesday and the whole of the province was "a liberated area."

Praising his forces for their discipline, he said any lapses would be severely dealt with.

Meanwhile Sudan's prime minister arrived Friday for talks with Uganda's new leaders.

State-run Radio Uganda reported the arrival of Prime Minister Ali Gaziou Dafallah, but gave no details about his visit other than to say he would meet top Ugandan officials.

One possible topic was the pre-

sence in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, of the ousted Ugandan leader, Gen. Tito Okello.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, whose guerrillas took power in January, has invited Gen. Okello to return to Kampala and be accorded the privileges of a former head of state.

Mr. Dafallah told reporters Thursday in Nairobi, Kenya, that his government felt Gen. Okello's return to Uganda would be a positive development but that it would not pressure the general to leave.

Soldiers commanded by the ousted armed forces chief, Lt.-Gen. Basilio Okello, have regrouped in the northern Ugandan towns of Gulu and Kitgum, which are being approached by units of Mr. Museveni's National Resistance Army.

Mubarak urges swift reforms

(Continued from page 1)

the dark," but needed to tackle urgently an economic crisis fuelled by falling foreign exchange earnings.

Mr. Mubarak urged Egyptians to stay at home this year so as not to spend dollars on holidays abroad, and told Mr. Lutfi's government to take urgent action to attract more remittances by more than two million Egyptian workers abroad.

He urged Mr. Lutfi, appointed last September to strengthen the economy, to speed up his work and decide on "strong, practical and radical measures."

Attacking Syria and Libya for their stand on the riots, he said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was wrong in saying they amounted to a popular uprising prompted by Egyptians' rejection of Cairo's 1978 Camp David accords with Israel.

"I hope that God may help brother Assad in liberating the Golan Heights and evacuating Syrian forces from Lebanon so that they may be able to regain their sovereignty," Mr. Mubarak said.

He attacked Libya's "childish attitude" of repeatedly urging Egyptians to revolt and said it did not deserve comment.

The president said Egypt had been the target of "an organised war of rumours" aimed at its stability and prosperity. He did not identify those responsible or link his charge to last week's riots, but said Egyptians "have turned back all the arrows towards their enemies."

Meeting studies Arabsat usage

(Continued from page 1)

Djibouti, Mauritania, Algeria and Tunisia have established their ground stations and are exchanging direct telephone communications as well as telex and television services.

Although one year has passed since the launch of both satellites the investment in Arabsat remains "poor and below average."

Less than the capacity of one of the satellites' eight telephone channels has been used. Each channel has a capacity of 1,000 lines, and at present only 180 lines have been used.

Saudi Arabia was the only country to lease 1.25 channels out of nine channels allocated for television.

The satellites' S bands — satellite channels with intensified rays — which has been designed for direct television exchanges have remained unused.

Some of the exclusive characteristics which the Arabsat satellites can provide are:

— Integrated service digital network (ISDN) — A future plan to use existing fibre cabling and eventually fibre optics to create a digital communications network that will be as easy to use as the utility's power lines.

— Teleconferences.

— Exchange of information among all Arab news agencies.

— Transmission of banking and other business data and electronic mail processing.

— Transmission of information, lectures and documents among Arab universities.

These benefits could be achieved in each country if it developed a transmission station which could be connected with one of Arabsat's nine channels, which are allocated for domestic use, Mr. Ismail said.

Dr. Hamdi Kandeel, director of UNESCO's public information department, presented a paper on "the international dimensions for the cultural and educational use of Arabsat."

Dr. Kandeel's thesis said Arabsat members have not succeeded in making an optimal use of the satellites' educational and cultural facilities due to "political misunderstandings and not because of technical failures."

The third paper submitted to the conference touched on "dimensions of regional education through Arabsat's programmes" and was presented by Dr. Amani Kandeel, a researcher from the Cairo-based centre for socio-criminal research.

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TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-14		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES	
PROGRAMME ONE		EXHIBITIONS		ARRIVALS		NIGHT DUTY	
16:00 Koran		An exhibition of selected works by Jordanian and Foreign Contemporary artists at the Alix Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until March 11).		This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53200-3, where it should always be verified.		Amman governorate 891228	
16:30 Cartoons		French cinema exhibition entitled "Cocoon, Cinema" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 13).		02:30 Bucharest (RO)		Amman civil defence 198, 199	
16:45 Children's Programmes		An exhibition of French industrial products and equipment at the Amman Marriott Hotel. In addition to the displays, various French films covering French technologies and industries will be screened during the exhibition (until March 9).		03:00 Berlin, Lamsca (LJ)		Civil Defence Told 271293, 27131	
18:15 Local Programmes		A book exhibition at the local community development centre at Hay Haddad, Amman, opposite the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (until March 13).		03:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)		Civil Defence Quesnaweh 770733	
18:30 Local Series		CULTURAL CENTRES		03:30 Cairo (RU)		Ambulance 193, 775111	
19:30 News Programme on Jordan		Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267		03:45 Athens (GR)		Amman downtown fire brigade 198	
20:00 News in Arabic		American Centre Tel. 644371		04:00 Doha, Bahrain (RU)		First aid 630341	
20:35 Arabic documentary on dental health		British Council Tel. 6361478		04:00 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)		Blood bank 778308	
21:00 Arabic Series		Goethe Institute Tel. 641993		04:15 Istanbul (TR)		Civil Defence rescue 661111	
21:55 Local Varieties Programme		Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203		04:30 Kuwait (KU)		Fire headquarters 622090-3	
22:00 News Summary in Arabic		Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049		04:45 Tripoli, Lamsca (LJ)		Police rescue 192, 621111, 639717	
23:10 Programme Contd.		Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777		05:00 Baghdad (IA)		Police headquarters 639141	
PROGRAMME TWO		Hayat Arts Centre Tel. 665195		05:15 Cairo (RU)		Traffic police 898399	
18:00 Champs Elysees		Hussein Youth City Tel. 667181/6		05:30 New York, Amsterdam (RU)		Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624681	
19:00 News in French		Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793		05:45 Athens (GR)		Municipal water complaints 771125/8	
19:15 French programme on Mollere		Amman Municipal Library Tel. 637111		05:50 Paris, Brussels (RU)		Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53330/60	
19:30 News in Hebrew		University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555		06:00 Madrid, Geneva (RU)			
19:45 Insight				06:15 London (BA)			
20:00 News in Arabic				06:30 Frankfurt (LH)			
20:30 Me and My Girl				06:30 London (BA)			
21:10 End of Empire				06:30 Cairo (MS)			
22:00 News in English				06:30 Baghdad (IA)			
22:30 Dempsey and Makepeace							
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19		MUSEUMS		DEPARTURES		HOSPITALS	
07:00 Light Music		Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also exhibits from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.		03:30 Bucharest (RO)		Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32	
07:30 Newsdesk		Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Closed Tuesdays.		03:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LJ)		Khalki Memorial 662816	
08:00 Morning Show				03:30 Athens (GR)		Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 642441/2	
10:00 News Summary				03:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)		Jabal Amman Maternity 636261	
10:30 News Summary				03:30 Beirut (MEA)		Deserts 621	
11:00 News Summary				03:30 Damascus, Rome (AZ)		Jordan Valley 10/26	
11:30 Pop Session				03:30 Lamsca, Berlin (LJ)			
12:00 News Summary				03:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RU)			
12:30 Pop Session Contd.				03:30 Vienna, New York (RU)			
13:00 News Summary				03:30 Athens (GR)			
13:30 Pop Session Contd.				03:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)			
14:00 News Bulletin				03:30 Lebanon, Abu Dhabi (RU)			
14:15 Science Report				03:30 Cairo (RU)			
15:00 Concert Hour				04:10 Dhahran (TR)			
16:00 News Summary				04:15 Kuwait (KU)			
16:30 Old Favourites				04:30 Lamsca, Tripoli (LJ)			
17:00 Listeners' Choice				04:30 Baghdad (IA)			
18:00 News Summary				04:45 Kuwait (KU)			
18:30 Jazz Hour				04:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RU)			
19:00 Newsdesk				04:50 Damascus (RU)			
19:30 Date with a Star				04:50 Baghdad (RU)			
20:00 Evening Show				04:50 Cairo (RU)			
21:00 News Summary				04:50 Dubai, Muscat (RU)			
21:30 Evening Show Contd.							
21:55 News Summary							

Jordan to host three Arab parliamentary meetings this week, Favez announces

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will host three parliamentary conferences in the coming week and at least 14 Arab countries in addition to the inter-Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) are expected to attend. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Favez announced at a press conference in Amman on Saturday.

He said that the Palestine question, the Gulf war, Lebanon and Arab solidarity will be among the main topics on the agenda of the conference.

The first such gathering to take place on Monday is the inter-Arab Parliamentary Union 17th meeting which will discuss the union's achievements in 1985, new applications for joining the union, and an agenda for a general meeting by parliamentarians on Tuesday. A union's plan for 1986, and amendments for the union's constitution among other topics, Mr. Favez said.

The second meeting, he said, is the general parliamentary conference itself due to be held on the following day, Tuesday. The conference will discuss a report on the union's activities since 1983, the current Arab political situation and elements required for enhancing Arab steadfastness in the face of dangers confronting the Arab nation as a whole. The two

day conference, he said, will also tackle inter-Arab parliamentary relations.

According to Mr. Favez, the third gathering will be a seminar related to the parliamentary conference. This meeting will be held on Thursday to discuss a number of matters connected with the inter-parliamentary union's legislation, he added.

Mr. Favez described the gatherings, which will be open to the public, as among the most important meetings to be organised by the union in view of the subjects on the agenda and in the light of the current Arab situation. Mr. Favez said that the meetings will discuss political activities within the Euro-Arab dialogue and the Afro-Arab dialogue as well as bolstering the union's ties with the Arab Jurists Federation and the Arab Lawyers Union.

In addition, Mr. Favez continued, the Amman meetings hope to contribute towards the Mexico parliamentary meeting due to be held in April and a similar one to be held in Argentina in October.

He said the following countries will take part in the meetings: Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen, Algeria, Kuwait, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Morocco, Somalia, South Yemen, Tunisia, Palestine and Djibouti.

Haj Hassan outlines topics of Arab labour conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) have signed an agreement under which the latter will extend technical assistance to help implement vocational training programmes for Jordanians. The ALO will also assist the government in spreading health and safety precautionary measures among workers in various businesses and industrial concerns. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced here Saturday.

The minister was speaking upon returning to Amman from Baghdad where he said he signed the agreement with ALO officials during a general Arab labour conference which started on March 4. Mr. Haj Hassan said that Jordan submitted several proposals to the general conference which were all approved by the participating delegations. Among these, he said, was a proposal calling for the gradual replacement of foreign workers by Arab workers throughout the Arab World and another urging Arab countries to adopt and implement a pan-Arab strategy on labour and economic matters which had been endorsed by the Amman Arab summit in 1980.

International fund

Jordan also called on the conference to help establish an international fund for compensating countries that export skilled manpower for their training of workers, similar to a proposal made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to an international labour conference in Geneva in 1977, the minister said. He went on to say that the delegation explained the importance of offering free movement of Arab workers throughout the Arab region and

emphasised the need to lay down a strategy governing cooperation among Arab states in the exchange of manpower with priority to be given to Arab workers.

During his visit to Baghdad, Mr. Haj Hassan said that he met with Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, who praised Jordan's national policies and support for the Iraqi people in the face of Iranian aggression on Arab territory. The minister also met with his Arab counterparts in the conference, especially those whose countries currently employ Jordanian workers, for discussions on bilateral cooperation in labour-related matters and employment.

Support for Iraq

The conference, the minister said, condemned Iran's aggression on Iraq and paid tribute to the Iraqi government for seeking to settle the conflict through peaceful means. The conference urged all peace loving nations to intervene and end the war, and it called on Arab countries to support Iraq in implementation of the Arab League joint defence pact, the minister continued.

Mr. Haj Hassan added that the conference decided to adopt a draft resolution that would condemn Iran's aggression and which would be submitted to the International Labour Organisation's conference in Geneva due to be held in June.

In addition, the conference deplored Israel's inhuman practices and arbitrary measures against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories, the minister said.

Mr. Haj Hassan was accompanied by a delegation representing his ministry, the employers and workers federations in Jordan.



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Favez Saturday holds a press conference to outline three parliamentary meetings which will be held in Amman this week (Petra photo)

Ministry making plans to raise college standards, Assad says

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad said Saturday that his ministry and the Higher Education Council are currently making plans to develop Jordan's community colleges with a view to raising their standards.

The minister was speaking during a visit to the Amman Community College where he was briefed on the courses given to teachers under training. He said at a meeting with officials, that the Ministry of Higher Education will maintain the general examination for community college students because the examination is the only criteria for differentiating between students and judging their capability and standards.

But he went on to say that the ministry will introduce many changes in the curricula, and will make students more dependent on

reference books rather than given textbooks in their different courses of learning.

The aim of development is to turn highly qualified people and to prepare those willing to join universities for further studies, the minister pointed out.

Dr. Assad said that community college students in engineering, electricity and mechanics Saturday embarked on a three-day practical examination session and students can be considered to have passed their general exams for the diploma only when they have passed the theoretical as well as the practical tests and their cumulative marks are no less than 60 as an average.

The minister said that students being trained as teachers will also do practical as well as theoretical exams before being awarded their diplomas.

Seminar on problems facing Jordanian women concludes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A four-day seminar tackling problems facing Jordanian women concluded its work on Saturday by calling for the participation of Jordanian women in the legislative bodies and for the removal of all kinds of sex discrimination at work.

During the seminar, which was organised by the Jordanian Writers' Society to mark International Women's Day, 22 writers and artists gathered to discuss working papers on the different aspects and problems which face women in Jordan. The papers covered the legal, political, social and economic factors which hinder the progress of working women in Jordan.

In their papers, and later during the discussion, participants stressed that the struggle to liberate women was part of the struggle to emancipate society and human beings from all forms of exploitation and discrimination.

They also pointed out that the gains achieved by Jordanian women towards a better social status cannot be detached from the political, social and economic progress which Jordanian society has achieved.

The participants said that one of the objectives of the seminar was to "create a positive public opinion" in support of women's just struggle to take a more active and effective role in the social, economic and political life of the

country. At the conclusion of the seminar, the participants formulated a number of recommendations which aim at improving women's conditions in all fields.

The seminar called for the participation of women in legislative bodies and for the enactment of laws and regulations which guarantee the equality of men and women.

The participants urged the government to ratify and implement a 1979 United Nations accord which called for the removal and abrogation of all forms of discrimination against women.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of the seminar, the participants also outlined a number of specific suggestions to improve the conditions of women in all fields. The statement urged the government to effectively apply compulsory education and appealed to journalists and writers to raise this issue in their articles. It also suggested the improvement of school curricula by including books which stress the role of women in building society and her equality with men.

The participants called for the extension of medical and basic health services to the rural and remote areas with a special emphasis on women and childcare programmes.

They also called for amendments to the Labour Law in Jordan to guarantee equal pay for men and women, for the same job and for fully paid maternity leave.

Rifai issues communique on government purchases

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Saturday issued a communique instructing all government departments to refrain from purchasing equipment or announcing tenders for purchases without prior coordination with the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Finance which will both study the various requests for equipment, machines and other requirements for such departments.

The communique said that Jordan and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed an agreement on Sept. 17, 1985 under which the latter will finance Jordan's purchases of goods and services to up to \$50 million of which \$25 million have been allocated for the current fiscal year. This agreement, the communique said, was aimed at bolstering the general budget and the Jordanian balance of payments and also to help create new jobs. The communique called on all departments to abide by the provisions of the agreement and to cooperate with the two concerned ministries to ensure quick delivery of various requirements.

Another communique issued by the prime minister instructed government departments to abide by regulations governing guarantees in dealing with local banks. It said that certain departments have been demanding that banks consider guarantees as open and unlimited by date. It said guarantees should bear a fixed date so that the interests of all concerned parties can be safeguarded.

Orbis leaves after carrying out 80 eye operations, exchanging skills

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Project Orbis, the U.S.-based "flying eye hospital" aboard a DC-8 airliner, left Amman for Malta on Saturday after concluding a three-week programme of ophthalmic operations and exchange of medical skills.

Orbis arrived here from Baghdad on Feb. 16 and during its stay, the medical team carried out 80 ophthalmological operations on local eye patients who were pre-selected from the King Hussein Medical Centre (KHMC), the University of Jordan Hospital and the government-run Al Bashir Hospital. Dr. Stanley Walker, one of Orbis' three ophthalmologists, told the Jordan Times in an interview prior to departure.

Dr. Walker said that the majority of the eye operations carried out by Orbis' doctors side-by-side with Jordanian ophthalmologists were ocular plastic surgeries, retinal operations, cornea transplants, corneal grafts and cataract surgeries. Orbis also managed to provide an average of 100-eye examinations a day, five days a week, according to Dr. Walker. On board the aircraft is an ultra-modern examination room which is fully-equipped to perform eye-screening tests and examinations.

Free treatment

Eye patients received free medical treatment on board the airliner, but special cases whose operations had to be carried out in local hospitals had to pay for the hospital's expenses but not for the cost of operation.

Orbis is a private, non-profit making organisation whose objective is to combat world blindness through an international exchange of skills and information dissemination between medical personnel.

According to an Orbis press release issued on the eve of their arrival to Jordan "there are 42 million blind people and another 500 million people who suffer from potentially blinding eye disease. If only current techniques and knowledge were available, two-thirds of this blindness could be eliminated."

Dr. Walker said that their experience with Jordanian ophthalmologists was one "of the best encounters Orbis has ever had"

since its inception in 1982. "Jordanian doctors are very professional, with excellent medical training, open-minds and they are very progressive," Dr. Walker said describing local doctors with whom Orbis ophthalmologists exchanged hands-on surgical skills and techniques during their three-week programme here.

Cornea bank

Dr. Walker however noted that if more money was available for the purchase of advanced medical eye-equipment and treatment and if a Jordanian cornea bank could be established, "Jordanian ophthalmologists could do miracles."

Several press reports which covered Orbis' mission quoted Jordanian ophthalmologists as appealing to citizens to donate their corneas after their death. Local optometrists also called for the establishment of a local cornea bank. The director of KHMC Ophthalmological department stressed that cornea donations were acceptable to the three holy religions.

Dr. Walker commented that the establishment of a national programme to enable cornea donations will "take time, although Jordan has proved itself to be a number one country in technological, medical and scientific advancement."

Incidence of Keratoconus

During their visit, Orbis oph-

thalmologists noticed that a high proportion of Jordanian youth suffer from Keratoconus—a severe eye-disease in which the shape of a cornea takes the form of an arrow instead of the regular round shape. Keratoconus patients also suffer an 80 per cent of loss of eyesight.

Commenting on the local incidence of Keratoconus, Dr. Walker said: "If cornea donations were available, then corneal grafts could be carried out thus enabling the suffering youth to regain total sight." Jordan currently imports corneas from Denmark.

Orbis visited Jordan in 1983 upon an invitation from Her Majesty Queen Noor. During their current stay, Queen Noor visited the aircraft and inspected Orbis' laser and microsurgical equipment. Their visit was arranged by the KHMC in collaboration with the Jordan Ophthalmological Society.

Dr. Walker could not say when Orbis will return to Jordan but he indicated that another three-week programme of this calibre was inevitable. "All of us enjoyed our stay here and had an excellent exchange of surgical techniques between our staff and our Jordanian counterparts," he said.

On Thursday, Orbis presented the KHMC, and both the University of Jordan and Al Bashir Hospitals with sets of video-tapes which were recorded during eye surgeries on board Orbis.

JDA to mark dental day

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh is expected to patronise the national dental day today during which nation-wide dental education programmes will be initiated.

The Jordan Dentists Association (JDA), in cooperation with the Ministries of Health and Education, has drafted a scheme under which dentists throughout the Kingdom will deliver lectures on dental care at schools, according to JDA President Walid Maraga.

Slides, documentaries, brochures and painting exhibitions will be shown to the public and school children to mark the day, Dr. Maraga told the Jordan Times on Saturday.

The main exhibition, to be inaugurated by the minister, will be at the women's vocational school in Amman. The exhibition will include paintings by students on dental care and oral hygiene.

Speaking about the day, which has been celebrated annually for three years, Dr. Maraga said the occasion was prompted by a rising incidence of dental caries and periodontal diseases due to a lack of public awareness.

The JDA suggested to the Arab Union of Dentists that the day be on a regional level and this proposal was accepted, Dr. Maraga said.

In another effort the JDA, in cooperation with Jordan Television, has produced a documentary on teeth care to be screened on Sunday. The documentary will be distributed to school video-libraries and Arab dentists associations for use.

Health Ministry, university join forces to study benefits of Jordan's springs, mineral waters

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Health Ministry and the University of Jordan are co-sponsoring a field study on the benefits of the hot springs and mineral waters in the country as a first step of a plan to build health resorts and spas in the Kingdom, according to Health Ministry sources.

The first phase of the study recently started in Afra, an area rich with hot mineral springs in the southern governorate of Tafleh, where a group of physiotherapists and researchers are accompanying 16 patients on a two week stay to test the practical uses of the waters. The experimental therapy at Afra was preceded by a number of academic researchers over the last four years, conducted by both the Health Ministry and the University of Jordan. The researchers studied the components of the spring waters there and their potential medical benefits.

According to Dr. Elias Salameh, the chairman of the Centre for Water Studies and Research at the University of Jordan, the studies so far showed that the water in Afra contains valuable dissolved minerals and maintains a high temperature of 46 degrees centigrade all year round. He also said that the Afra mineral water could be bottled and used for health purposes in Jordan and exported other Arab countries.

Health Ministry sources expressed hope that the Ministry of Tourism would help in promoting

the hot spring waters to attract patients from other Arab countries.

Facilities for low-income groups

Dr. Khalil Hamed, head of the physiotherapy centre at Al Bashir Hospital, said that one of the main objectives of the study was to provide natural physiotherapy treatment, including the drinking of mineral water, to low-income people who cannot afford to travel to Europe and other countries for the same treatment.

He told the Jordan Times that the best way to secure such facilities for low-income patients is by building health resorts near the hot water springs in the country. He suggested that any health resorts should be built at a reasonable cost so that low-income patients could afford the expenses of using the facilities.

Other doctors, who agreed with Dr. Hamed, pointed out that the wealthy and financially well-off usually seek such treatment in the best resorts in Europe while the poor are deprived of such opportunities. Consequently, the doctors argued, building luxurious resorts in Jordan could prove to be a loss since those who can afford the expenses are the ones who would prefer resorts in Europe and elsewhere.

But building health resorts, according to the Health Ministry sources, is still a long term plan and the immediate goal is to discover the benefits of the hot spring

waters in order to help Jordanian doctors provide therapy and treatment for patients.

Word of warning

Dr. Hamed warned that citizens should not try to use the water without a doctor's permission or instructions. He explained that



Natural mineral water in Jordan — potential for physiotherapy and therapeutic treatment (J.T. file photo)

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, N.A. AMMAN BRANCH

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. wishes to advise its customers that it intends to close its branch and cease its operations in Amman as of the close of business on April 3, 1986. Chase is pleased to announce, however, that it has reached an agreement with The Bank of Jordan Ltd., which is a banking institution known to us and whom we hold in esteem, to accept the transfer of your account(s) under the same terms and conditions currently in effect with Chase.

The Bank of Jordan Ltd. has advised Chase of their intention to continue to operate the business from Chase's present branch location at First Circle, Jebel Amman, and to employ substantially all of Chase's present staff so that your banking needs may continue to be served without disruption.

A letter further explaining this transfer has been sent to all customers at their most recent address on Chase's records. If you have not received that letter or if you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Customer Service Representatives from The Bank of Jordan Ltd. will be available at Chase's premises to respond to any questions you may have regarding their services.

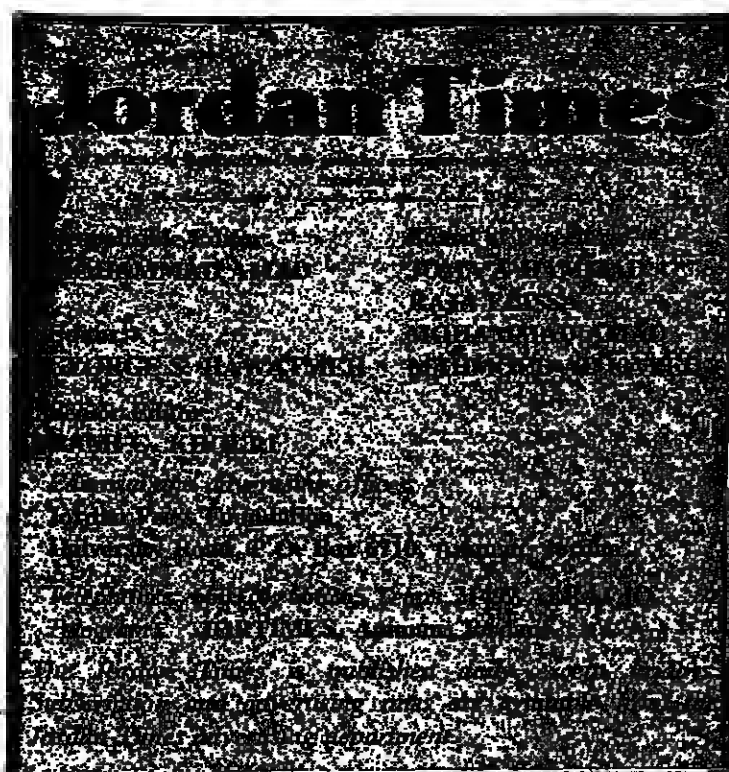
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The clarity of Europe

THE INITIATION this week by the European Community (EC) of a round of diplomatic contacts to see what could be done to revive Middle East peace prospects offers the kind of opportunity that the region needs — if the EC is prepared to bring to bear on the Arab-Israeli conflict the brand of honesty and clear-headedness that has usually characterised things European.

For the past several years, the Middle East has witnessed a roller-coaster pattern of rising and falling hopes that the Arab-Israeli conflict might be resolved to the satisfaction of all via peaceful negotiations. Our hopes have not been realised. Yet, the basic problems and challenges remain the same: How to satisfy the mutual Palestinian and Israeli claims to national rights, justice and security in Palestine, while meeting the Arab states' just security needs as well.

The role of the Europeans in such a dynamic has always been imprecise. We often hear that Europe lacks the potential influence on either Israel or the Arabs that would allow it to play a more substantial mediating role. Yet, keeping the mediator's job as purely an American domain has also proved unfruitful. There is a more substantial European role to be played. And this may be an opportune time for Europe to play that role — in the wake of the latest breakdown in attempts to initiate a genuine peace process.

A European role in the Middle East should be patterned on the positive European role in southern Africa. The EC may not be able to play the role of active mediator, but it can adopt a politically and morally fair and balanced position to act as counterpoint to the partisanship of the United States. The European states suffer neither the political constraints nor the moral weaknesses of the American leadership. The Europeans can help by clearly delineating the essentials of a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as they have done in several cases: the Palestinian right of national self-determination, the involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the internationally recognised legitimate Palestinian leadership, and the right of all states in the area, including Israel and a Palestinian state confederated with Jordan, to live in secure and internationally recognised borders. Where America offers political imprecision and moral frailty, Europe can provide clarity on both counts.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israeli aggression

ISRAELI propaganda these days continue an attack on Jordan through different radio and television programmes. Israel, it seems, is directing its fury on the Jordanian press in particular because Jordanian newspapers continue to publish atrocities committed by Israeli leaders against the Arab people under their rule. Israel commits all forms of oppression and tyranny against our people and accuses the Jordanian press of adopting an attitude hostile to peace. In fact the Israelis are not pleased with the Jordanian papers because they reflect the government's national commitments and because the Jordanian press exposes Israel's inhuman actions. This psychological warfare on Jordan can never achieve Israel's ends and is bound to fail as it did before. But the campaign reflects the hostile attitude of the Israeli leaders towards Jordan and towards peace, though such propaganda programmes can never influence our people on both banks and can never force Jordan to change its course. What seems certain is that Israel does not benefit from past lessons and is still intent on pursuing hostile attitude towards the Arabs. Therefore we call on the Jordanian family to be well-aware of Israel's intention and psychological war directed against Jordan's steadfastness and resoluteness.

Al Dustour: Pursuing peace

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy plans to embark on a new Middle East trip in the coming days with the purpose of revitalising the peace process. But before leaving Washington, Murphy realises that the Israelis will not help him in his mission and that they continue to place obstacles in the path of peace, ironically supported by the United States. The United States has so far failed to take a meaningful step and a candid attitude that would be looked on as a balanced policy in its dealings with the Middle East despite the fact that it can do so. It should be noted, however, that the United States has, for once, taken a constructive step and agreed on the idea of an international conference and the need to grant the Palestinians their legitimate rights. The Arabs and the Palestinians have also taken a positive step towards a peaceful settlement by declaring their views and stands at the Foz Arah summit. It is only Israel which has so far refused to recognise Palestinian people's rights and takes measures to Judaize Palestinian land. Therefore, before Murphy embarks on this mission, the United States should pressure Israel into accepting the call of peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Oil prices

WESTERN information media these days focus attention on oil prices, maintaining that if the current decline in oil prices continues the Middle East in general and the Arab countries in particular will face real disaster because their economies greatly depend on oil. The rumours also maintain that the recent disturbances in Egypt were due mainly to the weakness in Egyptian economy and that other similar disturbances will soon prevail in other Arab countries. These are hostile information media and directing poisonous attack on the Arabs. They claim that only a rise in oil prices would enable the Arabs to continue building themselves and develop their societies. But it should be pointed out that oil is a very new thing in the life of the Arab Nation and it is on agriculture that most Arab countries depend for a living. The oil revenues were the cause for the rise of prices of other basic commodities which Western countries sold to the oil producing nations. The oil was a negative element in some areas that tempted the people to forget about agriculture bringing about real weakness. The Arab Nation once had a great empire following the birth of Islam without any oil. The Arab countries can build up their strength with all the resources at their disposal, including oil, and therefore oil cannot be everything for the Arabs as the Western media continue to claim.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Price-fixing — a necessity or a bureaucratic gain?

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

AFTER two months of the new experience of floating the prices of fruits and vegetables, the government reversed its position and decided last week to resume official pricing. The reason was said to be that the close monitoring of the markets through comparative statistics proved that during the two months, producers prices plunged while consumer prices surged, and that middlemen were the only winners.

When the prices of local fruits and vegetables were floated, many officials and commentators suddenly discovered the virtues of interaction between supply and demand in a free market. They asserted that the farmer will benefit. It is not surprising that the same individuals had to reconsider their position and go public again in support of fixed prices!

Ignoring those who follow the wind, we believe that the experience of abolishing off-

icial fixed prices, short lived as it may have been, is worth serious evaluation. We must derive the appropriate lessons in order to prevent using the episode as evidence against liberalisation of the price mechanism, and in order to cut down on the role of bureaucrats in running the economy.

Obviously, the two months period was not sufficient to reach meaningful conclusions about the outcome. Economic factors need a longer period to make their impact felt. Almost every reform or alteration of economic practices may result in the situation getting worse before it starts to improve. If it was true that the profit margins of distributors became larger in the absence of official price-fixing, our answer would be that higher profits made by the distributors should attract more of them to enter the business, which would result in

stronger competition and consequently lower prices for the consumers, lower than the level prevailing on the pre-floitation period. Such adjustments do not simply take place in two months.

On the other hand, economic policies do not give the desired results and the structural changes unless the business community became reasonably convinced that these policies are stable, durable and not subject to continuous changes. Thus the mere fact that the floating of prices of fruits and vegetables was called an "experiment," deprived it from its effectiveness, and doomed it to failure. Under these circumstances, no new distributors entered the competition, and producers did not alter their practices, including variety of products and areas allocated to each kind. Such alterations may take place only if producers and distributors

were certain that the new formula would prevail for years to come.

Furthermore, the statistical survey, which was presented to the Council of Ministers is not beyond challenge. It could easily be misleading. Those who prepared the study did not hide their bias against a free pricing system. It is quite possible that figures were manipulated to suit some people's convictions.

The so-called study claimed that producers prices dropped (sometimes by 53 per cent). This is incredible, simply because producer prices were always floating. The products were always and are still sold via a public auction. Compulsory pricing comes into effect after that stage, and is based on the auction prices. Only the margin for retail distributors was fixed. Wholesale buyers and exporters, as well as producers, are not affected in anyway. If producers' prices dropped by 53

per cent, or any percentage, there should be no connection to whether or not the retailers margin was fixed.

The study also claims that consumer prices shot up sharply, (sometimes by 150 per cent). The study did not say which prices it was referring to. Was it prices at the fabulous groceries of Jabal Amman, or the modest shops in refugee camps, or in the country side, or the vegetable market?

Did statisticians pick up a price out of a wide range of prices depending on location and quality? Did they take the highest prices asked for, the lowest or the average? Did they follow up the various grades of each product? It is completely unacceptable to compare the most expensive kilogramme of tomato in Jabal Amman in a given day with the cheapest kilogramme sold in the Jordan Valley.

These choices allow the sta-

tionistic or the economist to distort figures and to come up with any findings that will conveniently prove his point of view. The partial facts, the manipulated figures, the distorted comparisons, and other factors can easily mislead decision makers.

Finally, we still believe that supply and demand in a free market are more efficient than a committee of bureaucrats who are fighting to restore their lost powers. That may explain why copies of the study reached the editors of the newspapers before reaching the Council of Ministers. The purpose being to create the atmosphere which will mislead the government.

Let us face it, intervention in the vegetable and fruit market is designed to serve the urban consumers and the new class of bureaucrats, at the expense of the rural producer and the long term interest of the economy.

Resignation of 'CIA conscience' opens way for more U.S. backing of 'freedom fighters'

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The resignation of CIA Deputy Director John McMahon has opened the way for more active U.S. backing of anti-Communist rebels around the world, congressional intelligence sources said Thursday.

McMahon, who resigned on March 5 citing personal reasons, resisted plans to expand secret CIA paramilitary operations in developing nations and moderated the degree of CIA support for guerrillas opposing Communist regimes in Afghanistan and Central America, the sources said.

He also aroused the ire of congressional conservatives by resisting sweeping proposals for expanded CIA counterspy operations and special satellites to track Soviet mobile nuclear missiles on the ground in wartime, the sources said.

Robert Gates, McMahon's replacement, was expected to be more enthusiastic about backing anti-Marxist "freedom fighters", according to the sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified.

The congressional sources, involved in monitoring U.S. intelligence, said McMahon had blocked more advanced anti-aircraft weapons for rebels fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan and had pared down proposals to boost arms to U.S.-backed "contra" guerrillas in Nicaragua.

McMahon, known in the intelligence community as the "CIA's conscience", had been uncomfortable with secret military operations which he thought threatened the priority which should be given to intelligence gathering, the sources said.

His resignation followed a letter-writing campaign by conservative groups urging the White House to fire him, according to John Houston of the lobby group "Free the Eagle".

The group had delivered more than 10,000 anti-McMahon letters to White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, saying the CIA official thwarted efforts to give Afghan rebels a fighting chance of ousting Soviet troops, Houston said.

McMahon's defenders say he helped organise covert aid for Afghan rebels and backed aid to the contras.

U.S. intelligence sources said McMahon resigned for personal, not policy reasons and said he had had the full confidence of CIA Director William Casey. A CIA spokesman said McMahon would have no comment.

The congressional sources said McMahon, leading an inter-agency group on "contra" aid, had scrapped proposals in 1983-84 to

sink Soviet freighters carrying supplies to Nicaragua's leftist government and proposals to sow Nicaraguan ports with heavy mines, making them impassable.

Instead, the group had opted for lighter, less effective mines which caused some damage but did not deter Moscow from continuing its supply efforts. U.S. involvement in the 1984 mining was exposed, to Washington's embarrassment.

The Reagan administration is pressing Congress to resume military aid to the "contras".

Arms supplies to UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) guerrillas fighting the Marxist government were recently approved by the White House and are now on the way to Africa, according to U.S. officials.



Houston said a proposal being circulated in Congress would establish a \$500 million fund to back "freedom fighters", giving the Defence Department responsibility for it. But Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle on Friday denied knowledge of it.

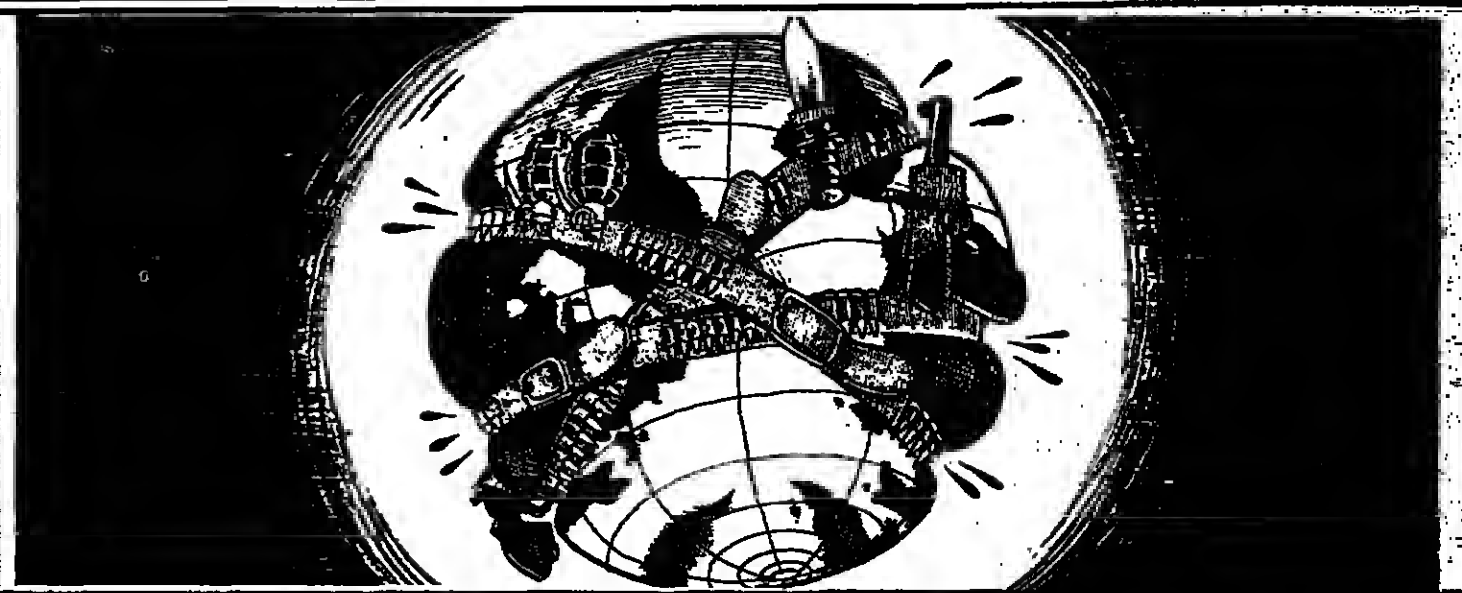
The congressional sources said McMahon had opposed a plan by Senator Malcolm Wallop, a Republican then serving on the intelligence committee, to step up operations for catching Soviet "moles" planted in the agency and to detect bogus intelligence leaked by Kremlin spies to mislead the West.

McMahon had maintained that overzealous efforts to "spy on the spies" would cause turmoil within the agency, leading to suspicion and acrimony, the sources said.

They said McMahon had focused spending for spy satellites on devices that could monitor Soviet compliance with nuclear arms pacts.

They also said he had opposed a shift in spending to technology which would allow the United States to track and destroy Soviet missiles and other weapons in war.

Conservatives like former intelligence committee aide Angelo Codevilla say the proposed new technology could be vital in helping to deflect a Soviet attack and that McMahon had placed too much stress on arms control.



Dobrynin to return to Moscow after decades as East-West link

By John Kampfer
Reuter

MOSCOW — Veteran Soviet Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Dobrynin is to return to Moscow after serving as a major East-West link for more than 20 years.

His naming on March 6 as secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee follows speculation that he wanted a move from the United States, where he has spent almost half his adult life.

Western experts in Kremlin affairs expected him to take over as head of the committee's international department from Boris Ponomarev, 51, who lost his junior politburo place at the end of the 27th party congress.

The job involves formulating policy towards non-ruling foreign Communist parties and other left-wing parties — particularly in

Western Europe — and monitoring such Western phenomena as disarmament groups.

Appointed U.S. ambassador early in 1962, Dobrynin was regarded as one of the brightest, most easy-going and confident members of the diplomatic service.

In 24 years as ambassador he worked with six U.S. presidents and under five Soviet leaders. Although popular and well-regarded in Washington circles, it was unclear how much influence Dobrynin held in formulating Soviet foreign policy.

Kremlin spokesman Leonid Zamyatin praised Dobrynin for his work as ambassador and said he would be difficult but not impossible to replace.

"As history teaches us, there are no people that cannot be substituted," he told a Moscow news conference.

Zamyatin said Dobrynin was

still ambassador in Washington until he formally handed over his credentials.

He refused to speculate on who would take over the envoy's job and said the matter would be considered only after Dobrynin returned to Moscow.

In November 1985 he was chosen by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as one of his closest advisers at the Geneva summit with President Reagan.

During the presidency of Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1974 Dobrynin was given direct access which allowed him to slip unnoticed into the White House for regular meetings.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who worked closely with Dobrynin, said he was one of few Soviet diplomats with keen insight into the psychology of Westerners.

Another man who came to

know him well was former United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Arkady Shevchenko, who defected to the United States in 1984.

"Imaginative and suave, he has an intuitive gift of understanding what makes people tick," Shevchenko said.

Dobrynin was frequently in the firing-line, having to convey Soviet foreign policy decisions to an angry Washington, often diverting attention from impending crises.

In October 1962 he told President John Kennedy that Moscow would never install nuclear missiles in Cuba. A week later the U.S. navy blocked Soviet ships carrying missiles to the island.

Born near Moscow on November 16, 1919, Dobrynin, a plumber's son, studied aircraft engineering before he was selected for the diplomatic corps.

Woman in top Soviet leadership for 1st time in 25 years

By Helen Womack
Reuter

MOSCOW — A woman entered the top Kremlin leadership Thursday for the first time in 25 years but Western diplomats said time would tell whether her appointment spelt real change for women in the male-dominated Soviet Union.

Closing the 27th Soviet Communist Party congress, Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced that former trade union official Alexandra Biryukova, 57, had been appointed to the powerful 11-member Central Committee secretariat working immediately under the politburo.

The last woman to reach the top ranks of the Soviet leadership was Yekaterina Furseva, who held full politburo membership from 1957-1961 and the lesser post of culture minister from 1960 until her death in 1974.

Furseva's political career was set back by her association with ousted Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and her involvement in various corruption scandals.

Her precise role is not yet

known but it is expected to reflect her 17 years of experience as a secretary to the central council of trade unions.

"As to whether other women will rise to top political posts, we must wait and see," commented one diplomat.

"In matters of sexual equality, this country is about 25 years behind the times."

In his keynote speech to the congress last week, Gorbachev called for women to be promoted in the party and public life while also announcing plans to give them more time off work to have and look after children.

He made only one slip of the tongue when reading out the list of appointments — "Anna. I mean Alexandra Biryukova".

Later he announced that a consignment of flowers had been given by the French Communist Party and suggested they be handed out to the women present.

27 per cent of the 5,000 delegates but most of them among the quota of ordinary workers sent to the five-year congress.

After decades of boasting that women had achieved full equality with men, the Soviet Union now takes the position that equality, like Socialism itself, is "incompletely developed".

Foreigners are often surprised to see women, including the elderly, performing manual labour on the roads and railways or to meet women in professions such as engineering, still male preserves in the West.

But this spirit of equality has failed to reach upwards or to open really powerful and well paid jobs to women.

At home, too, a woman who after a hard day's work must cook and clean for her unhelpful husband is likely to view as a rubbed blessing the Soviet male tendency to old-world gallantry.

This courtesy was well illustrated at a news conference last week by First Deputy Prime Minister Geidar Aliev who, after speaking for some time on social issues announced that he would take the next two questions from women journalists.

Information Minister Hussain has promised to revise restrictive press laws.

But he marked his first meetings with editors last month after be-

coming minister with advice to "promote the good values of society in the framework of Pakistan's (Islamic) ideology" and ignore "divisive trends".

Despite these pressures, a new English-language daily appeared in Peshawar last month.

Government officials say two major Urdu-language dailies, Jang and Nawa-i-Waqt, are also planning to start new English-language papers.

But none of the papers banned by Zia in 1979 has yet been revived. They include the Urdu-language daily Musawat, the multiplicity of the Pakistan People's Party of exiled former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Information Minister Hussain has promised to revise restrictive press laws.

But he marked his first meetings with editors last month after be-

Pakistani president starts an anti-journalists' campaign

By Raja Asghar
Reuter

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's newspapers, trying to break free of government influence after more than eight years of martial law, have come under fresh pressure with a strong denunciation of their behaviour by President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

And earlier assurances by the administration of civilian Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo of press freedom are now tinged with conditions.

General Zia, who is the army chief as well as the country's president, gave newspapers one of his harshest rebukes this week. He accused them of being mis-

chievous and said their journalists were mostly ignorant, irresponsible and untrustworthy.

His remarks in a speech at a dinner attended by a large number of journalists came only hours after Information and Broadcasting Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain met newspaper editors and owners to assure them of "full cooperation for the betterment of the newspaper industry."

Since martial law was lifted on December 30, newspapers have used the new freedom to carry detailed stories about opposition parties, even reporting their demands for Zia to step down.

But Zia was most angered by what he called baseless reports

giving an impression that differences were developing between himself and Junejo, whom he named prime minister after non-party parliamentary elections last year.

The General accused newspapers of indulging in sensationalism to promote sales. He used phrases like "most ignorant", "most irresponsible" and "most untrustworthy elements" to describe journalists.

"The whole mischief is caused by the newspapers," he said. "Please don't trust them."

As Gen. Zia was blasting journalists in Islamabad, authorities in Karachi were reported to have ordered a printing company to halt production of a pro-

opposition newspaper, although its editor said they backed down later.

Azfar Siddiqi, editor of the Urdu-language daily Amn (peace), told Reuters the authorities ordered the company not to print his paper for 90 days because it did not make a security deposit of 30,000 rupees (\$1,900) for carrying a report that prisoners had been tortured to death. The government denied the report.

Siddiqi said the order was withdrawn when he told the authorities they could be guilty of contempt of court since he had already obtained a high court order staying payment of the money.

He also said the government

had cut advertising in Amn by state-run organisations by 99 per cent to punish it for giving prominent display to news of opposition parties.

Government advertisements are a major source of revenue for Pakistani newspapers which often complain that the authorities use them as a lever to force papers to follow the official line.

Zia made it clear in his speech that there would be no official patronage for newspapers which "catch the government by the neck."

Information Minister Hussain has promised to revise restrictive press laws.

But he marked his first meetings with editors last month after be-

Women's rights: Legally guaranteed, socially unaccepted and inadequately utilised

By Jackie Sawalha
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is widely acknowledged that Jordanian laws and legislation have granted women their basic rights and have adopted the principle of equality between workers in rights and responsibilities with no discrimination based on sex: the right to an education to the age of 16, the right to work, the right to vote, the right to run for Parliament and municipal office and the right to take part in the socio-economic development of their country, as stipulated in the Jordanian constitution of 1953.

According to a national document dated July 1985 and submitted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to the Appraisal Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the U.N. Decade for Women (Nairobi), "women's issues cannot be separated from the development of society with all its sectors and establishments. Women's development is part of a whole, its plans and programmes cannot be drawn in isolation from the general framework of the development process which aims at fighting poverty, ignorance, illness and resisting occupation and the hard economic and political conditions faced by Jordan. ... It is acknowledged that women cannot undertake such a role unless there is a suitable atmosphere for women in which to practise their roles."

In view of the economic crisis and rising unemployment in Jordan, it is unfortunate that this crisis affects women more adversely than men, which results in a "low tolerance level of women's family responsibilities by their employers" according to a leading Jordanian economist Dr. Fahed Faneek.

It is ironic that the possibility to realise the rights and benefits granted to women by the Jordanian Constitution and labour and civil laws, under favourable conditions,

secretary-general of the Nairobi conference, "...this explains why equality in terms of family and household responsibilities has not been realised by many women the world over. Equality in other spheres of life has likewise been only partially attained. ... on the national level attitudes which perceive women as inferior to men has been widely cited as a major obstacle. The relegation of women, both in public and private life, to a position of subordination accounts for the underdevelopment of their contribution to society. Yet, the attitude which regards women as passive and subordinate creatures has been found to be accepted both by men and women. Women, not only men, have to change their attitudes."

This opinion was also expressed by Mrs. Wijdan Saket, an active mother, who said that women are their own worst enemies and that there is no need for women to really fight for their rights as things are changing in the woman's favour. The problems arise when women do not seize the opportunities given to them to take full advantage of these changes. Mrs. Saket said.

One explanation could be that this is because women today are "first-generation career seekers" whose own mothers rarely had the opportunities that exist today to pursue ambitions and careers even in such male dominated fields as engineering and architecture. Women are therefore in a dilemma when confronted with socio-economic change outside the home and traditional restricting values and attitudes from within.

Women and the law

Another perspective was given by Mrs. Asma Khader, a lawyer in private practice who is widely known for her work in support of women's individual liberties. She said that under Sharia law (which forms the basis of all Jordanian legislation), a woman is free to work outside her home and to

prised nursery facilities, adequate public transport and lack of ready made catering services. This only increases the burden of home life responsibilities to an intolerable degree, Mrs. Khader commented.

As a lawyer, she feels that legislation (i.e. the Labour Law) does not cater for the needs of the working mother nor does it provide adequate protection of her rights in that its power of influence over private sector establishments was "questionable" in that it does not include sufficient disincentives or penalties in cases of violation. Mrs. Khader believes that it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive policy aimed at maintaining a radical change in attitude towards the role of working women, coupled with a change in legislation and planning, to achieve positive and effective solutions to the problems.

She continued that one of the main obstacles in pushing through legislation to effect such a change is the chauvinistic attitude of most men, who hold on to outdated concepts of women, and also to the attitude of women themselves, who under-estimate themselves and their jobs due to the way they were brought up.

"We cannot deny that the Jordanian development plans adopted a policy aimed at involving women in a more constructive way, but these plans lack useful planning in order to achieve their purpose," Mrs. Khader said. She agrees with the general consensus of opinion that women's position in the eyes of the law is improving. But, she said that despite this "theoretical improvement" (i.e. gaining political rights), the reality showed that improvement in application of the law is more inert due to social, economic and cultural elements. She believes that it is the duty of all to unite in sharing the responsibilities of action so that the government would ratify a United Nations agreement on "eliminating all forms of discrimination against women," issued by the General Assembly in December 1979, and amend legislation in accordance with the provisions of that agreement to guarantee greater protection for women's rights.

The Labour Law of 1960 and women's rights

Article 23 of the Constitution, drawn up in 1953, emphasises the right of all Jordanian citizens to work and the duty of the government to manage and to direct the national economy in such a way that would help to provide jobs for all Jordanians.

The current labour law, which has been in force since 1960, and its subsequent amendments have taken into account these constitutional directives by adopting the principle of equality between workers. The Ministry of Labour, through its labour inspection service, is working hard to ensure the implementation of this law and its related regulations, particularly with regard to the general conditions of employment in all establishments operating in the national economy.

However, one of the main obstacles is that many women are unaware of their rights, particularly amongst the unskilled female factory workers, who accept certain working conditions out of financial necessity, according to Mrs. Buthaina Jandach, director of the Consultative Services for Women.

The current labour law was introduced to suit social and economic aspects prevailing at that time. The following are the main articles dealing with women:

Article 46/Safety: Does not allow employment of women in any work that is deemed dangerous. **Article 47/Nightwork:** States that women (and children) are not allowed to work between 7pm and 6am except in such cases as may be determined by the minister of labour and social development. **Article 19/Resignation for Mar-**

riage: A woman who chooses to leave her employment for the purpose of marriage is granted her full right to compensation provided that she has been employed continuously for a period of not less than 6 months. Compensation is paid as follows: a) Half a month's wage for each of the first four years to a person who is paid on a monthly basis; b) Two weeks wage for each of the first four years to a person who is paid on a basis other than monthly; c) One month's wage for each year after the first four years to a person paid on a monthly basis; d) Four weeks wage for each year after the first four years to a person who is paid on a basis other than monthly.

It has been reported that in some establishments in the private sector, banking/insurance/manufacturing, girls are asked to resign when they decide to get married and married women are not hired as a matter of policy. Perhaps the pay off they receive or the importance they attach to their marriage prevents many women from registering complaints against this practice, even though it is a violation of the Labour Law.

Article 35/3/Welfare: An establishment employing more than 30 women must provide an adequate "room" (nursery) for the pre-school children of female employees. According to Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hadi, director of Research at the Ministry of Labour, it is difficult to implement this law because it does not go beyond the point of saying who is responsible for supervision and for bearing the costs of establishing and running such a nursery. In practice, he said, there are only a small number of establishments that comply with this procedure, among which are the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (which meets all costs involved), the Ministry of Education (which supplies the location and female employees who use this facility and pay the costs of management), the Alia School for Girls and the International Baccalaureate School.

In addition, the Department of Family and Child Health at the Ministry of Social Development has helped to establish five government day-care centres in Jordan which are run by the ministry for the use of working mothers in both the private and public sectors. These centres are in Ashrafieh, Jabal Hussein, Zarqa, Irbid and Salt. These centres act as a model for training purposes only. The department has no further plans to establish additional day care centres as they consider it the responsibility of the private sector.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, is leading Jordanian women into avenues of modernisation through her keen support for women's activities and through the

Queen Noor Foundation, an umbrella organisation that cares for children, the handicapped, social development, welfare societies and women (File photo)

decision. According to a report published recently in the Jordan Times, Kuwait has endorsed a bill allowing married Kuwaiti women in the public sector a two-year "motherhood leave" on half-pay in addition to two months maternity leave on full salary. The bill was passed despite government objections.

The importance of protecting maternity as a basic and fundamental social function has been the subject of many conferences and seminars held in Amman over the past few years, organised by many non-governmental organisations (NGO) who play an important part in complementing

government policies. Towards the end of this month, Yarmouk University in cooperation with the Housewives Association will be holding a conference on the role of women and maternity and will discuss the psychological and social aspects, mother and child health care and legislation.

The Housewives Association in Amman aims to give special training to housewives in home economics in an attempt to improve standards at home and to assist housewives in finding suitable part time jobs. Mrs. Minver Khrais, head of the association, said that current maternity leave is too short and that a mother should be entitled to adequate sick leave

benefits for maternity reasons. The Housewives Association has participated in many conferences dealing with the status of women but Mrs. Khrais regrets the lack of follow-up after such conferences. It is one thing to convince the government of the recommendations, but quite another to see these recommendations achieved, she remarked.

Due to Jordan's membership in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Arab Labour Organisation, it has already ratified 12 international and 5 Arab conventions dealing with the organisation of labour. This has necessarily led to a review of the existing labour law in order to incorporate the ratified conventions within it. However, Jordan has not ratified ILO convention 103 concerning maternity protection, nor has it ratified ILO convention 3 concerning women's employment before and after delivery.

Former minister of labour Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar said many international conventions were followed as guidelines only. Hence, the reason for not ratifying certain conventions was because they were too advanced in their approach to the prevailing social and economic structure in Jordan and once ratified must be complied with, he explained.

Policies, planning

In drawing up national policy issues regarding women, the Ministry of Labour has taken into consideration the development strategies of national plans, which emphasise the importance of increasing the role of women in economic activities; directives from the Department of Women's Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development; and recommendations issued by various seminars and conferences on the national and

international level tackling women's participation in the socio-economic development of Jordan. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development also acknowledges the importance and vital part played by many NGOs in complementing government activities to benefit society at large.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar feels that the role of the women-mother in family life should be more productive and that there should be a revival of traditional productivity at home with less reliance on ready-made market products. He also feels that not enough attention is being paid to encourage "home industries" which would give women at home greater flexibility to cope with family responsibilities.

The percentage of working women has been steadily increasing over the past 5 years and there has been a corresponding increase in the number of suggestions lodged by women for women regarding their employment conditions and rights. These views have been expressed in a number of symposiums and conferences that have been held in Amman over the last few years with the purpose of increasing women's participation in the labour force. Dr. Abdul Hadi from the Ministry of Labour says the results of these conferences gave stimulative suggestions that led to the consideration of various measures with regard to improving women's employment conditions and rights.

There has not been a corresponding increase in the number of complaints received by the Ministry of Labour about working women's rights. This is because many women do not wish to pursue these complaints for personal and social reasons and because some, particularly the illiterate or unskilled female workers, are not aware of their rights.

Looking ahead: 5-year-plan, draft labour law make more provisions for women

By Jackie Sawalha
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time in Jordan, the issue of women has been included in a national development plan, thus giving women the opportunity to discuss for themselves the status of women on a national level. According to member of the women's section committee, Mrs. Shima Abdel Elah Tabba'a, it was not just a question of putting forward suggestions for inclusion in this plan, but equally important was the follow-up with female representation.

The women's section committee, represented by specialists in the various fields of study, looked into the role of women in the labour force, (rural and urban), education and health to see what steps could be taken to help women in the future to be on an equal footing to men, not only in theory but in practice. Dr. Monwer Kurd, responsible for women's development at the Ministry of Planning, said that this means that all women must unite their efforts and work under one governing organisation to compensate for the lack of effective measures adopted by the official sector.

It has been suggested that the General Federation of Jordanian Women act as this organisation with government support — financial and in kind — through the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. A suggestion was made to establish a central market to enable non-governmental organisations to market their products on a permanent basis, thus solving many marketing problems experienced by these organisations. It would also provide an alternative to full time employment by giving non-governmental organisations greater plausibility and providing many families with a second income, an incentive to housewives to benefit from their every day duties, according to Mrs. Shima Abdel Elah Tabba'a a committee member.

The committee also highlighted problems in laws governing labour, social security, retirement pensions and civil status relating to women in an attempt to bring about legislative changes. They have already succeeded in changing the Housing Corporation laws which previously discriminated against women applying for housing in their own right.

On the subject of maternity benefits, Dr. Kurd points out that it was difficult to push for drastic change in the law due to the prevailing economic crisis and unemployment. She felt that although a change was necessary it was equally important for women to accept their responsibilities. Dr. Kurd said that the answer lies in improving education policies which are geared at present to quantity and not quality. Ignorance of legislation has deprived women of their rights, she added. The projects put forward by the committee aim at developing and



In the past three decades, awareness of health, child care and education has moved to Jordan's rural areas through increased and modernised services provided by governmental and public institutions (File photo)

encouraging small "cottage industries" particularly for women not participating in the labour force. They suggested bee keeping and honey production, which is very easy to implement, a soft toys industry and a haute-couture training project aimed at training ladies in specialised dress making that would also encourage local designers. Suggestions were also made to assist women in rural areas with income-generating agricultural projects.

Mrs. Tabba'a said that the suggestions proposed by the women's section of the committee have tried as far as possible to solve the problems women face. But this was no guarantee that these suggestions will be accepted in the 1986-1990 development plan, she added.

New Draft Labour Law

The current Labour Law of 1960 and subsequent amendments to it suited the prevailing socio-economic conditions of that time, but in view of urbanisation and recent and rapid changes witnessed by Jordan over the last decade, a review was essential to change the entire structure of the law. This was the opinion of former minister of labour, Tayseer Abdul Jabbar and which was presented in a paper on "The Jordanian Working Woman and the New Draft Labour Law" to a seminar on this subject in 1983.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar's paper also said that the review was needed to encompass two important sectors of the work force who have not, until now, been included in legislation: employees in "irregular" establishments i.e. employing 5 persons or less and agricultural workers. Dr. Abdul Jabbar said that the draft law sought to strike a balance between traditional values and improving incentives as well as allowing employers' apprehension about these incentives in an attempt to forestall a tendency to employ men rather than women.

The Ministry of Labour in cooperation with the I.L.O. set about drafting the new Labour Law after the Social Security Law was introduced in 1978. The recommendations were submitted to a committee comprising the Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, trade unions and representatives from the Social Security Corporation, the Jordan Bar Association, the engineers association and the University of Jordan.

The committee held a total of 37 weekly sessions during which they debated these recommendations in depth.

This new draft labour law is still going through the constitutional process because of the "tripartite" structure in national decision-making which makes it difficult to bring them altogether and to reach a conclusive decision on which all agree," explained Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hadi, from the Ministry of Labour. However, it is hoped that before May 1 1986 (Labour Day) a final decision will be reached to implement this long overdue law.

Provisions regarding women in new draft law

The new law set out to give equality to women in employment opportunities, wages, promotion and training. This principle is in effect but the minimum training age has been raised from 13 to 16, thus guaranteeing compulsory education.

Women are prohibited from doing dangerous or hazardous work and work that is detrimental to her health.

Women are restricted from doing nightwork between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. except in cases of emergency, for women in leadership positions and workers in social health and tourist services.

Nurseries: The law has been changed to oblige establishments that employ 20 married women or more to provide suitable location

for their children under 4 years of age.

Maternity leave: The law has been changed to give no less than 10 weeks with at least 6 weeks after delivery on full pay. There is still no provision for an extension of maternity leave due to sickness resulting from pregnancy or delivery.

Employers are prohibited from sacking women for marriage or maternity reasons.

A working nursing mother is allowed one hourly breast feeding break per day. This principle is already in force.

A woman is guaranteed her job back should she choose to take unpaid leave to accompany her husband on missions abroad, for a period not exceeding two years.

A woman is guaranteed her job back should she choose to take unpaid leave to raise her children, for a period not exceeding one year.

The current labour law does not apply to establishments classified as "irregular" (i.e. employing less than 5 persons), nor to a large sector of the agricultural field.

The new draft labour law has set out to rectify this and any establishment operating in the national economy be they "regular" or "irregular" must comply with the terms of the law once it has been approved.

Many people expressed the view that sufficient supporting services for women are of vital importance if women are to be encouraged to take part in the socio-economic development of their country. Jordan has often acknowledged that its citizens are its most valuable natural resources and the role of women is seen as vital to the continuity of socio-economic development. Yet, the single and most repeated grievance of many women is the lack of adequate supporting services which would ease the burdens they face simply because they chose to exercise their rights to take part in this development process.

"Neither is a man greater than a woman, nor a woman greater than a man. But it is also not true the two are equal in everything. The reality is greater and more beautiful: the woman has qualities specifically feminine which when added to the qualities which are specifically masculine, allows the achievement of results which are greater, more expressive and richer than any which could be reached if either of the two sexes were working separately."

— Archbishop Dom Helder Camara
Recife, Brazil

has significantly declined today.

Dr. Faneek estimates that 1 in 5 workers in the labour force are female and he feels that the percentage of women at work in Jordan is possibly the highest in the Arab World (50 per cent of teachers are female, one third of the Royal Jordanian Airline staff are female, and the private sector accounts for 40 per cent). However, he said that women have a significant input into the economy of Jordan and whereas in the past women played a limited role in such fields as teaching, nursing and agriculture, today they are emerging as leaders and career seeking members of the labour force.

Dr. Faneek noted that the government is predominantly a male employer (civilian and military) and that the government holds the key to increasing female participation in the labour force and in the general socio-economic development as a whole.

Many people feel that there has not been a corresponding change in social values and individual attitudes towards women to keep pace with legislative provisions. According to Mrs. Leticia Shabani,

choose a job other than house-keeping and raising her children. But there are other concepts that affect the working woman and which are related to Islamic traditions: such as the principle that says a woman should be obedient to her husband or to any other male who is responsible for her since it is accepted that the man's role is that of providing financial support for his family. There is also the view that it is improper for women to be in the company of men.

Mrs. Khader says that limited role and the treatment of women as subordinate to men has and will limit their opportunities to participate in the labour force as even if a woman does so, it would be a temporary and restricted participation, thus neutralising a high percentage of women capable of work. This has a very strong effect on the category of people who are not well educated nor socially aware, she adds.

Mrs. Khader also feels that certain factors in the fabric of Jordanian society do not make life easy for a working woman. She cites a lack of good and reasonably



Women join in all sorts of community and social activities, such as the Arbor Day festivities held earlier this year (File photo)

Everton overcomes 2-0 deficit to force replay

LONDON (R) — League champions Everton, facing a 2-0 deficit after 65 minutes, struck back and grabbed a 2-2 draw at Luton Saturday to earn a home replay in their English Football Association (F.A.) Cup quarterfinal.

The class and sustained pressure exerted by the European Cup Winners' Cup holders finally told on Luton's artificial pitch as they forced an own goal in the 65th minute and seized the equaliser in the 77th through substitute Adrian Heath.

Mick Harford had given Luton the lead in the 21st minute and when Mark Stein made it 2-0 in the 63rd, it seemed Luton would exact revenge for their 2-1 extra time defeat by Everton in the semi-finals last year.

But Everton, who have overtaken Manchester United in the league race in recent weeks as they bid to regain their title, stayed on course to achieve the league and cup double they missed out on by

losing to United in last year's cup final.

In another quarter-final, Southampton hit first half goals through Kevin Moran and Glen Cockerill and rolled to a 2-0 away victory over Brighton.

One round behind, Watford earned an away quarterfinal at Liverpool by beating Third Division Bury 3-0 in a replay.

The line-up for the quarterfinals will be completed Sunday when Manchester United entertain West Ham in a replay at Old Trafford.

The winners travel to Sheffield Wednesday. Liverpool gained retribution for their midweek elimination from the League Cup by Queen's Park

Rangers by thumping the London side 4-1 at Anfield. The league victory left them second, a point above Manchester United and five behind Everton.

Other league sides also went on scoring sprees. Tottenham rebounded from defeats in the league by Liverpool last Sunday and in the cup by Everton in midweek by routing last-placed West Bromwich Albion 5-0.

A hat-trick by Carl Shutt took Sheffield Wednesday to a 5-1 triumph over Birmingham and Arsenal got in on the act with a 4-1 victory at Aston Villa, avenging a League Cup defeat by Villa.

Chelsea, fourth in the league, kept pace with a 1-0 home victory over Manchester City via an 85th minute own goal by Nicky Reid. But Nottingham Forest, seventh, lost ground after a 1-0 defeat at Ipswich, England defender Terry Butcher scoring in the 52nd minute.

Fortuna surprises Bayern, 3-2

BONN (R) — West German champions Bayern Munich suffered a day of disaster Saturday with a stunning 3-2 home defeat to relegation candidates Fortuna Dusseldorf and the loss of two key

players with serious injuries. Bayern's astonishing defeat allowed league leaders Werder Bremen to move four points clear in the table despite a disappointing goalless draw at home

to Bochum.

Bayern, who lost 4-0 away to Fortuna earlier in the season, found themselves trailing 3-0 after 49 minutes Saturday. Ralf Dusend put the visitors in the lead after 37 minutes. Holger Fach headed the second on the stroke of halftime and Dusend got the third four minutes after the restart.

The Munich side fought back with goals from Hans Pflueger and the irrepressible Danish midfielder Soren Lerby, who made it 3-2 with seven minutes to go, but it was not enough.

The defeat was not just a serious jolt to Bayern's hopes of retaining their title. It also dented their chances of reaching the European Cup semifinals.

Captain and sweeper Klaus Augenthaler had to go off after only three minutes with a suspected pulled muscle, which may keep him out of action for several weeks, and goalkeeper Raimond Aumann was also substituted in the first half with a serious knee injury.

With a frail 2-1 lead from the first leg, Bayern must do without both players when they meet Anderlecht in Brussels in the quarter-final return on March 19.

Algeria, Morocco disappoint

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP) — The long-expected clash between Algeria and Morocco, the two teams which will represent Africa in next summer's World Cup, ended on a disappointing draw 0-0 Saturday.

This result keeps alive the hopes of both teams to qualify for the semi-finals of the Africa Cup of Nations to be played on March 18. Cameroun, thanks to its victory over Zambia earlier in the afternoon, now tops the B-group of the competition with two points. Algeria and Morocco are in second place with one point each.

As both teams feared each other and did not want to take risks, the game concentrated in mid-field. During the very boring first half, the 15,000 spectators of the small Alexandria stadium had no reason to be enthusiastic. Both teams played a very defensive and rough game with many fouls.

Without any of its professionals playing abroad, Algeria looked

like a very common and even weak side. It never created real scoring opportunities but proved to have a good defence when Morocco, in the first 20 minutes of the second half, tried harder to open the score particularly through Mohammed Haddoui, a professional currently playing in Switzerland. Morocco's Aziz Boudabala, also a professional from Switzerland, had the best chance of the match in the 70th minute, but Algeria's goal keeper Nassereddin Drid made a great save.

Morocco, which featured its best line-up, with the exception of Mohammed Timoumi still injured, dominated most of the second half but never really endangered its opponent's defence.

Algeria's attacking power will be much higher when Rahab Vlagder, currently playing with Porto of Lisbon, comes for the next two matches against Cameroun and Zambia.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of basketball games played March 4-7

Juniors

Istiklal Library 22
International Traders 36
Jordan Express 25
International Traders 26

Mids

Volvo 39
Astra 29
Marriott 43
Astra 31
Volvo 40
Marriott 36

Seniors

Joliff 57
Sakura 50
Joliff 73
Cairo Amman 49

Jordan Express 21
Lego 34 (OT)
Lego 22
Istiklal Library 25

Peugeot 24

Intercon 23
Near East Equipment 28
Peugeot 17
Near East Equipment 38
Intercon 24

Cairo Amman 50
Al Ahlyah 42
Sakura 54
Al Ahlyah 24

Cameroun beats Zambia

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Cameroun opened their defence of the African Nations' Football Cup with a dramatic 3-2 win over Zambia Saturday in a penalty-studded opening match of the tournament's Group B.

Zambia dominated the first half, coming close to scoring on several occasions, with Jerry Shinde testing Cameroun's goalkeeper Thomas Nkono to the full with a right-foot shot which he parried over the bar.

Chansa Wisdom came close again in the 39th minute with a powerful header that went just above the crossbar.

Two minutes after the break,

Cameroun's Roger Milla made it 1-0 when he took a long pass and stabbed it past keeper David Effort-Chabala. But Zambian substitute Michael Chabala headed in a cross to level scores in the 62nd minute.

Three minutes later, Milla was hauled down inside the penalty area after an intricate solo run and team mate Louis Paul Mfeda converted from the spot.

Each side scored once more from the penalty spot, closing the encounter 3-2 to the Camerounians — a sweet victory a year after the Zambians ousted them from the race for the Mexico World Cup finals later this year.

Norman, Devoy snare titles at French Open squash tourney

PARIS (R) — Top seed Ross Norman clinched the French Open Squash Championship Saturday when he overcame fellow New Zealander Stuart Davenport 9-3, 9-1, 9-5 in a hard-fought final.

Earlier, Sue Devoy, New Zealand's world number one, retained her French Open title, dominating nailing Heather Wallace of Britain, who quit the final after two games.

Norman, playing with the consistency he showed throughout the tournament, wore down his opponent, justifying the rankings which make him number two in the world and Davenport three. It was Davenport's second successive appearance in the final but

a far less one-sided affair than last year's when he was destroyed in 27 minutes by Jahangir Khan.

Jahangir abdicated the French title he had won four years in a row, opting instead to play a tournament in Toronto.

Norman, who missed last year's French Open, took 71 minutes to win. "It's been the biggest ever tournament I won," he said. "Stuart put up a good game. We always have a rough game but this was one of the better ones."

Norman's battle with second seed Davenport had to be adjourned at 5-3 in the first game when Davenport went off court for treatment with his hand bleeding.

'One of us is going to go down'

LAS VEGAS (R) — For a gambling centre that prides itself on knowing the "inside information," there are more than the usual batch of questions about the latest challenger for the world middleweight crown, John Paul Mugabi.

Mugabi, who fights undisputed champion Marvellous Marvin Hagler on Monday night, has been the subject of speculation about his stamina, his ability to take a punch and his defence which is based on a wide-open, flailing style.

But the most intriguing "if" surrounding the Ugandan challenger is what would happen if he did land his devastating right on the champion's chin? Would Hagler crumble, or would he shrug it off? Mugabi has no doubts about what will happen.

"I have no respect for Hagler. I'm going to beat him up. I'll knock him out maybe in the first, or the second, or the third. I'm not joking," said the quiet Mugabi.

His 26 previous opponents would vouch for the fact that Mugabi's threats should be taken seriously.

Every one has gone down early — 26 wins and all within the distance. Sixteen have fallen within the first two rounds and only one has gone past the sixth.

Thanks to these quick successes Mugabi, the World Boxing Ass-

ociation (WBA) top-ranked middleweight and the World Boxing Council (WBC) top-rated light-middleweight, has logged fewer than 12 rounds in the past two years.

"There's less of a chance of Hagler knocking John out than John knocking him out," says Mugabi's manager, Mickey Duff. "But Hagler could win a decision."

Mugabi is adamant that the fight has got to finish early. "If it goes the distance, they'll rob me," said the 26-year-old. "I got robbed against the Russians in Moscow in the Olympics and I'm not going to let it happen again."

After knocking out three opponents Mugabi had to settle for the silver medal at the 1980 Moscow Games, losing to Cuban Andres Aldama 3-2 in the final.

It was at the Olympics that Duff first spotted Mugabi. The British fight manager knows quite a bit about talent, having directed 13 world champions over the past 36 years including light-heavyweight John Conteh, middleweights Terry Downes and Alan Minter and welterweight John H. Stracey.

Mugabi moved from Kampala to London in 1980 and had most of his early professional fights in West Germany. In 1983 he moved to his current home in Tampa, Florida, and has had 12 of his past 15 fights in the United States.

Mugabi's knockout prowess has made him a favourite of American television viewers. But despite his success it has not always been smooth sailing for the Ugandan in the United States.

Before training one day last month at his camp near Nogales, Arizona, on the U.S.-Mexican border, Mugabi and several members of the entourage crossed into Mexico.

Upon trying to leave Mexico, however, Mugabi discovered his visa had expired and he was denied re-entry for several hours until attorneys finally cleared up the matter.

What is not clear is how the 1.74-metre Mugabi will fare against the versatile Hagler, who weighs in at 72.6 kilos.

Most of Mugabi's victims were 69.8-kilo, light-middleweights, and his middleweight opponents do not compare with those met by Hagler during the American's 10-year unbeaten string and 5½ year title reign.

But Mugabi's trainer George Francis does not see this as a problem. "John's power is our trump card. Hagler's never met anyone who hits as hard as John. If John can catch Hagler — and that's if he'll go down."

Mugabi feels strongly that it will not be a long drawn-out affair. "It's not going the distance. One of us is going to go down."

Navratilova and Sukova reach finals

PISCATAWAY, New Jersey (R)

— On a day in which doubles partners faced each other in singles, Martina Navratilova and Helena Sukova emerged victorious to reach the final of the U.S. Women's Indoor Tennis Championships.

Fourth-seeded Sukova was an upset winner, scoring her first victory ever against second-seeded defending champion Hana Mandlikova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 before returning with her fellow-Czechoslovak partner to also reach the doubles final.

Number one seed Navratilova, who this week is resting from doubles competition, had an easier time against her partner and fellow-American Pam Shriver, but still needed 80 minutes to defeat the third seed 6-4, 6-4.

Sukova said she rated her victory against Mandlikova above her 1984 defeat of Navratilova that put her into the Australian Open final.

"I'm so happy, this is my best win ever," Sukova said. "When I beat Martina, I didn't have to overcome the mental pressure. I had against Hana, because I couldn't beat her even if I was playing well. I was concentrating on every point, that was the most important thing. She moves so well you have to make a very good shot that she's not going to get to."

Mandlikova put on a happy face after her unexpected loss.

"She played a good match, let's give her credit," Mandlikova said. "I didn't play my best, but she did."

Canadian sets world indoor men's 60-metre hurdle record

TOKYO (R) — Canada's Mark McKoy set a world indoor best time for the men's 60 metres hurdles in the 1986 Tokyo International Indoor Track and Field meeting Saturday.

He was clocked in 7.47 seconds, just one hundredth faster than the previous record of 7.48 set by East Germany's Thomas Munkelt in 1983.

Three days ago the 24-year-old Canadian physical education student set a new world indoor best in the 50 metres hurdles at a meet in Kobe, Western Japan.

McKoy told reporters he now planned to concentrate on training for outdoor events, particularly

for the Commonwealth meeting.

In Saturday's 60 metre hurdles Toni Campbell of the United States finished second in 7.62 seconds, followed by compatriot Al Joyner who clocked 7.69 seconds.

In the men's 60 metre dash, Emmit King of the United States edged out world best performer Ben Johnson of Canada. Both men were timed in 6.56 seconds.

King won the indoor 60-yard dash at the 1986 U.S.A. championships.

East Germany's Cornelia Oschkenat coasted to victory in the women's 60 metres hurdles with a time of 8.06 seconds.

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London Metal Exchange to begin liquidating tin contracts on Wednesday

LONDON (R) — The prospect of a collapse in world tin prices is looming larger following a decision by the London Metal Exchange (LME) to liquidate its outstanding tin contracts starting next Wednesday, traders said.

They said Friday's LME decision raised fears of massive losses among metal brokers and was a blow to the International Tin Council (ITC), which was making frantic efforts to work out a last-minute solution to the four-month-old crisis.

A price collapse was also likely to have a devastating effect on countries such as Bolivia which depend on tin exports for their well-being, traders said.

Weeks of complex negotiations to arrange an orderly resumption of tin trading broke down on Thursday when Indonesia, a key producer of the metal, said it would not put up \$15 million (\$21.8 million) to support a rescue plan.

The ITC Friday appealed to Indonesia to reconsider its stand and also urged Thailand, which failed to reach a decision on the rescue plan, to respond positively. Trading on the LME, the world's premier metal market, has been suspended since Oct. 24, when the ITC ran out of money to support the price of tin at an artificially high level.

The LME said Friday the sus-

pension would continue while it settled its contracts at a fixed price of \$6,250 (\$9,062) per tonne, well below the \$8,140 (\$11,803) mark at which tin was last traded.

Traders said the immediate result of the LME's decision could be for brokers to send a bill in the region of \$150 million (\$218 million) to the ITC next week.

Britain, which had been prepared to put \$50 million (\$72.5 million) into the rescue scheme, said Friday it had received virtually no support from member members of the 22-nation council.

Junior Trade Minister Alan Clark told parliament the government was not prepared to take sole responsibility for solving the crisis, even though Britain stands to lose considerable earnings if London's pre-eminent position as a metal trading centre is seriously eroded.

Since tin trading on the 109-year-old exchange was halted, prices of other metals including copper, aluminium and nickel have also dipped.

Some traders have been predicting that the price of tin could plummet to as low as \$4,000 (\$5,800) per tonne if 11 creditor banks holding nearly 40,000 tonnes of the metal as collateral against ITC loans off-load their stocks.

U.S. interest rate cut expected to spur economy

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve Board (Fed) has cut its key discount rate to seven per cent from 7.5 per cent in a move that is expected to give the U.S. economy a boost while helping ease international debt problems.

The central banks felt the time was right to bring rates down more. Commerce Department chief economist, Mr. Robert Ortner, said of the coordinated move by U.S., West German and Japanese central banks to lower their loan rates to commercial banks.

The Fed action followed a drop in Germany's Bundesbank's discount rate from four per cent to 3.5 per cent and in the Bank of Japan's rate to four per cent from 4.5 per cent.

The discount rate drop, which brings it to its lowest level in nearly eight years, came after the U.S. Labour Department announced an unexpected 0.6 per cent jump in the nation's unemployment rate for February.

The unemployment rate rose to 7.3 per cent in February from 6.7 per cent in January. It was the first rise in the unemployment rate in a year and was the largest increase in six years.

The weak report on the labour market certainly made it easier for our monetary authorities to ease rates," Mr. Ortner said.

The White House claimed the rise in unemployment was not the start of a trend and was largely due to bad weather from Texas to California.

Moments following the Fed announcement some major banks, including Chase Manhattan, Chemical, Morgan Guaranty Trust and First Chicago, said they were lowering their prime rates, the interest they charge their best customers, to nine per cent from 9.5 per cent effective immediately.

The moves are likely to help lower interest rates throughout the U.S. economy and should help make it easier for debtor nations to meet their interest payments, many of which are based on the U.S. figures, Mr. Ortner said.

The White House welcomed the discount rate cut and said it would benefit consumers who could get lower financing rates for home, automobile and other major purchases.

"We are pleased by it," said White House spokesman, Mr. Larry Speakes.

While news of the widely anticipated rate cut had only a small impact on the dollar, the U.S. currency dropped on the news of the large rise in unemployment.

On Wall Street, stocks posted just a small gain despite the rate cut.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 1, '86 and ending Wednesday, March 5, 1986 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking & financial institutions					
Jordan Islamic Bank	3648	8295	2.250	2.340	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	7610	17614	2.280	2.350	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	6672	10208	1.530	1.530	1.000
Housing Bank	2450	3667	1.510	1.490	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	6000	12810	2.150	2.120	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	1100	1726	1.570	1.560	1.000
Petra Bank	220	589	2.750	2.650	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	6866	202910	28.100	27.750	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1353	28421	18.000	20.000	5.000
Arab Bank	2040	283228	145.000	140.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	24430	61224	2.500	2.530	1.000
Jordan Finance House	8750	7411	0.850	0.840	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	12343	12342	1.030	1.020	1.000
Islamic Investment House	5900	5266	0.950	0.870	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	23694	16615	1.210	1.200	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation	30685	11866	0.900	0.880	1.000
National Financial Investments	35680	45409	1.280	1.230	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	26850	19421	0.740	0.720	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	30570	20000	0.660	0.650	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	2800	3462	1.260	1.230	1.000
Insurance					
Jordan Insurance	1965	21791	11.150	11.200	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	5600	14733	2.780	2.600	1.000
REFCO Insurance	18459	9690	1.020	1.030	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	15074	21268	1.330	1.440	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	20	500	25.000	25.000	10.000
Arab Union International Insurance	476	476	0.970	1.000	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	825	1854	2.260	2.250	1.000
Al Arab Insurance & Reinsurance	1655	1376	0.830	0.830	1.000
Universal Insurance	200	167	0.860	0.830	1.000
Al Jadhira Insurance	2000	1800	0.900	0.900	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	400	384	1.050	0.960	1.000
Petra Insurance	3100	1595	0.450	0.530	1.000
Services and industries					
Jordan Electric Power	6437	9453	1.460	1.470	1.000
National Shipping Lines	8750	6386	0.730	0.720	1.000
Jordan Dairy	9018	10664	1.190	1.180	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	26154	83384	3.100	3.200	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	13350	9691	0.730	0.720	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboard Factories	5671	14854	2.600	2.620	1.000
Jordan Phosphates Mines	18392	36394	2.200	2.000	1.000
Industry, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	6163	12047	1.900	1.980	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries	550	666	1.260	1.210	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	1100	4533	4.100	4.120	1.000
Alladin Industries	6417	4493	0.700	0.700	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	700	402	0.510	0.600	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes	40	530	13.500	13.250	5.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	53410	47264	0.890	0.900	1.000
Arab International Hotels	23905	9390	0.420	0.390	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	1138	4045	3.500	3.600	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	2050	1886	0.930	0.920	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	11909	15119	1.260	1.270	1.000
Chemical Industries	1200	1039	0.910	0.870	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches	20450	13763	0.710	0.690	1.000
Dar Al Daw' for Development & Investment	5642	8426	1.500	1.500	1.000
National Steel Industries	3225	3713	1.170	1.150	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1315	2464	1.810	1.910	1.000
Jordan Leasing Equipment	1644	1167	0.710	0.710	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	1900	1890	1.000	1.000	1.000
General Mining	1930	3127	1.620	1.620	1.000
Arab Paper Converting & Trading	2800	843	0.320	0.300	1.000
Petra for Projects & Leasing	65280	19269	0.800	0.790	1.000
Arab Development & Investment	500	350	0.700	0.700	1.000
Rafia Plastic Bags	250	275	1.050	1.100	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	6561	43402	6.620	6.620	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	45653	13527	0.300	0.290	1.000
Jordan Breweries	1647	5270	3.210	3.200	1.000
Jordan for Printing & Packaging	810	3240	4.500	4.000	1.000
Woolen Industries	1200	1025	0.930	0.850	1.000
Trans Jordan Minerals Research	8246	8246	1.000	1.000	1.000
Grand total	654.858	1.250.892			

OECD will save \$80b in '86 from low oil prices

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will save about \$80 billion on their oil imports' bill compared with that of 1984 if oil prices remain at their current low level for the rest of 1986, according to a report published here Saturday.

The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Bulletin said that if the savings stemming from the fall in dollar exchanges are added, OECD savings on oil imports in 1986 will total \$100 billion.

"These savings represent a major transfer of wealth at the expense of the oil exporting countries, which raises questions about how the funds will be recycled and how much the developing countries will benefit," the bulletin monthly editorial said.

In the mid-seventies, the editorial said, the industrialised countries saw the sharp rise in oil prices as a major cause of soaring inflation. "In fact the price of oil was only a minor factor compared with the monetary and fiscal policies (of the industrialised countries) which had induced high inflation rates well before," the editorial said.

The editorial said that the 24-member OECD possessed the monetary and financial channels to absorb the surpluses of the oil exporting countries "so that the circulation of petrodollars was in a sense automatic."

"A large portion of the oil countries' savings were deployed in the world economic system, which is dominated by the OECD countries," the OAPEC Bulletin said. "Oil revenues thus became subject to the financial and monetary fluctuations brought about by the industrial countries' policies."

The OAPEC Bulletin said that with the rise in oil prices the oil exporting countries shouldered many of the responsibilities of the industrial countries toward other developing countries. It asked whether the latter were prepared to resume those responsibilities now that they were enjoying savings on oil imports.

"In the years of high oil prices the aid given by OPEC countries to other developing countries accounted for more than three per cent of their gross domestic product, whereas that given by industrial countries averaged only about half of the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of their gross

domestic product," it said. "The OPEC countries therefore have the right to ask whether the developing countries, oil exporters and non-oil-exporters alike, will receive more aid now," it asked.

It also questioned whether the developing countries will be able to buy industrial goods more cheaply "on the assumption that depressed oil prices will induce lower inflation rates in the industrial countries."

The editorial contended that wealth controlled by the industrial countries filters through to developing countries in the form of aid and loans with "such stringent conditions that most of the debtor countries' export revenues go to loan servicing."

"Indeed, the crippling debts of \$1,000 billion currently facing the developing countries are in large measure due to the unbalanced distribution of income in the world today," it added.

Meanwhile, Japan's top trade minister Saturday proposed a meeting of energy ministers from the leading industrialised countries to discuss declining oil prices.

Mr. Michio Watanabe, minister of international trade and industry, made his proposal in a meeting with visiting U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington, said ministry spokesman, Mr. Masahiro Okuda.

Mr. Herrington showed "strong interest" in the proposed meeting, but added that stability of crude oil prices should be based on market mechanisms, not on artificial price intervention, Mr. Okuda said.

In making his proposal, Mr. Watanabe noted that falling oil prices might cause a slowdown in developing new oilfields and other alternative energy sources.

But he said the world economy would benefit through commodity price stability in oil-consuming countries and lowered production costs from cheap oil prices, Mr. Okuda said.

G.M. to assemble cars in Egypt

DETROIT (R) — General Motors (G.M.), the largest U.S. vehicle manufacturer, plans to assemble two models of cars in Egypt, the firm has announced. The cars produced by the firm are to be sold in Egypt, G.M. said. The two cars were designed by G.M.'s West German subsidiary, Opel A.G., and their assembly in Egypt will require creation of a car parts supply network, G.M. said Friday. G.M. said it plans to assemble 59,000 cars a year in Egypt by 1990, using the facilities of Al Nasr Automotive and the Arab-American Vehicle Company. First year production was estimated at 30,000, said G.M. The new firm to assemble the cars will be called General Mitr Car Company.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are able to wind up matters which had been already put in motion, but there are also some temporary delays in planning new outlets. Persevere and you find you have a pleasant time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid an older person who could put a crimp in your style. Stick close to the one who loves you and understands you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It is best to be with good friends today and avoid anything connected with business right now. Casual recreation is recommended.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It is better you get in to the activities you like today and not permit an older partner to force ideas on you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Avoid the dull and be off to public places where you can show your finest abilities and gain prestige.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Steer clear of that outside partner who wants to take too much of your time and be happy with the one you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be with persons whose mode of living you admire and try to emulate it. Take advantage of propitious situations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make your abode more attractive and comfortable, so don't waste time on frivolous pleasure. Take care of your health.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You want to have a delightful time and this is possible with congenials today, but don't spend too much money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know what it is that kin desire of you and do what you can for them and relegate your own wishes to the background.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Forget a long-time problem and get out and meet interesting persons who can make your life more worthwhile.

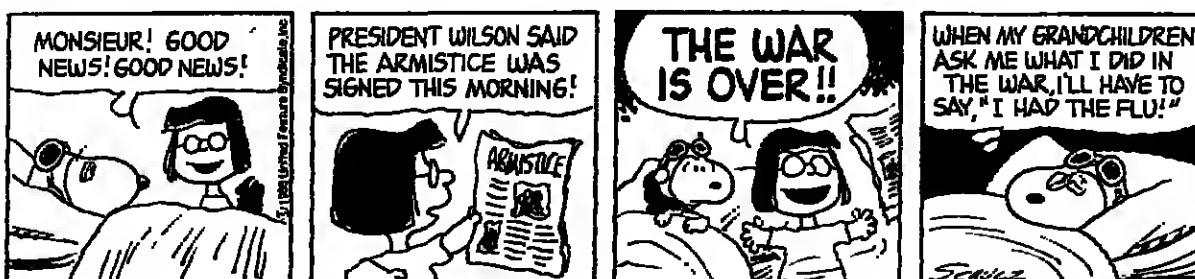
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are capable of gaining a greater abundance and should study literature that can be helpful to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have fine ideas for gaining your purposes, but don't let a know-it-all get you off the beam. Show affection for kin.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very sensitive and should early be taught to be more objective and not feel hurt at every small slight, otherwise a martyr complex will develop. Your progeny could do well in art or business.

Crosswords not received

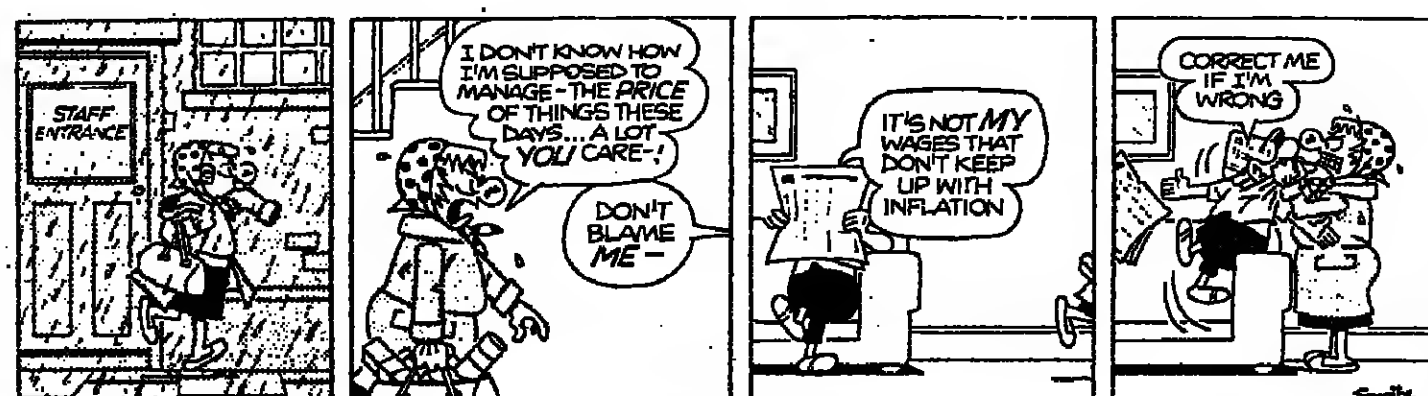
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answers, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE OF

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LINER ALIAS LAWFUL SOOTHE

Answer: What jokes told by mountain folk often are— "HILL-ARIOUS"

13 pro-Marcos generals placed under house arrest

MANILA (R) — Thirteen Philippine generals including the heads of the army, air force and navy under deposed President Ferdinand Marcos have been placed under house arrest, authoritative sources said.

The sources said the arrests were a preventive measure to stop the generals, all regarded as Marcos loyalists, from becoming rallying figures for opposition to the new government of President Corason Aquino.

They said the generals were not under investigation nor was action planned against them for their roles during Marcos' 20 years in power.

The 13 included Maj.-Gen. Josephus Rimas, army chief, Maj.-Gen. Vicente Piccio, air force chief and Rear Admiral Brilante Ochoco, navy chief.

The arrests were the latest sign of a purge of the armed forces directed by Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fidel Ramos who both played key roles in Mrs. Aquino winning power on Feb. 25.

Mr. Enrile already has retired 23 other generals Marcos had allowed to serve beyond normal retirement age.

He has said more military retirements were planned and announced that more field officers would be appointed to senior

posts to improve the efficiency of the armed forces.

The government also moved Saturday against the media machine used by Marcos to promote his policies.

Information Minister Teodoro Loesin told reporters the government was taking over three of Manila's five television stations. Under Marcos there was only one official government television station but the three taken over Saturday were regarded as pro-Marcos.

Mr. Loesin said the three stations might have illegally received government money under Marcos.

The change of government has set off a battle for control of other media outlets.

Eugenio Lopez, who lived in exile in the United States after he escaped from Manila jail in 1977 while held on charges of plotting to kill Marcos, has staked his family's claim to a business empire taken over by Marcos and his associates during the martial law period from 1972-1981.

Lopez, who returned to the Philippines last week, has claimed six television and 21 radio stations spread throughout the country as well as the Manila Electric Company, the country's sixth biggest corporation once owned by his family.

A newspaper which championed the cause of Marcos until he fled into exile said Saturday it was suspending publication — the first victim of the Philippines' new-found press freedom.

As what were formerly opposition newspapers reported heavy business and dizzying increases in circulation, the Metro Manila Times said it would suspend publication from Monday due to "present business conditions."

The newspaper's publisher, Kerima Poloton, wife of a presidential assistant in the Marcos administration, could not be reached for comment.

The Metro Manila Times was launched during the 1972-81 martial law years when the original Manila Times, then the country's most popular newspaper, was closed down.

The Manila Times reappeared two days before the Feb. 7 presidential election which finally saw the end of the Marcos regime. It has reported a circulation of over

90,000 and its pages are crammed with advertisements.

Its Executive Editor Vergel Santos told Reuters: "It has become clear to the market now which is the true Times."

The Bulletin Today, a spectacular success story of martial law years, also suffered a major setback with a drop in circulation as well as advertising.

Staff members say the circulation has dropped to 130,000 from 250,000. Its main news section which ran to 20 pages has shrunk to 14 and advertisements are fast disappearing.

Meanwhile the government of Mrs. Aquino will prepare a new constitution within 100 days and then hold general elections. Vice-President Salvador Laurel said in an interview published Saturday.

Mr. Laurel told Yomiuri Shimbun a 30 to 50-member committee would draft the constitution over the next 90 days for approval by national referendum.

A general election would be held after the constitution was approved, he added.

Mr. Laurel said implementation of a new constitution would transform the Aquino government, which he called a revolutionary regime, into a legal administration.

Marcos brought boxes of money to Hawaii

HONOLULU (R) — Deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his party brought about \$1.4 million worth of Philippine pesos into Hawaii, most of it in cardboard boxes, the U.S. customs service has said.

The service released details of the money after a federal judge in Honolulu, Harold Fong, refused a request by lawyers for Marcos to block the disclosure.

The Central Bank of the Philippines has filed suit for the return of the money.

Customs district Director George Robert said most of the money was found in 22 cardboard boxes aboard a U.S. military cargo plane which brought belongings of the 90-member Marcos party to Hickam Air Base, on the outskirts of Honolulu.

Mr. Robert said the equivalent of nearly \$1.3 million was found in 50 and 100-peso bills in 22 cardboard boxes on board the plane.

More pesos, worth \$8,285, were found in bags on the plane, he said.

Mr. Robert said the Marcos party carried \$111,396 worth of pesos when it arrived at Hickam.

Earlier, in Washington, the Reagan administration said it would hand over to the new Philippine government a complete list of the contents of crates brought to Hawaii by Marcos.

Row between India, Sri Lanka worsens

COLOMBO (R) — A row between India and Sri Lanka over the island's ethnic conflict worsened Saturday after New Delhi cancelled a cricket tour and sent a stiff diplomatic protest note to Colombo.

The note, handed in Friday, accused Colombo of making "baseless and tendentious" allegations against New Delhi and of using "intemperate language," including casting personal aspersions on India's foreign minister.

It referred to a protest sent by Colombo to New Delhi on March 1 accusing India of bias over the conflict between Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils in which more than 3,000 people have been killed in the past three years.

The government was reacting to a statement by Indian External Affairs Minister B.R. Bhagat in which he was reported to have accused Sri Lanka of genocide of Tamils and imposed a time limit of one month to resolve the conflict.

The India cricket team Friday cancelled a visit to Sri Lanka for the four-nation Asia Cricket Cup competition starting later this month, a move seen by analysts in Sri Lanka as part of the dispute between Colombo and New Delhi.

No reason was given for calling off the tour. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had been due to take part.

The Indian note expressed dismay and regret at the content and tenor of Sri Lanka's protest, saying: "It can hardly be conducive to

overcoming the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka."

It said Sri Lanka appeared to be trying to find an alibi for its failure to engage in constructive negotiations to resolve the conflict.

India arranged talks between representatives of the Sri Lankan government and Tamil groups last year but they collapsed after the two sides accused each other of violating a ceasefire agreement.

The note said the Sri Lankan government's military actions and repeated statements about a military solution suggested that Colombo's assertion that it was seeking India's assistance in finding a political solution could only be regarded as "an exercise to camouflage its real motivations."

India said it was committed to helping to resolve the crisis through a settlement which would enable Tamils to obtain their legitimate aspirations "through an appropriate political framework which keeps intact the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka."

Instead of indulging in polemics, Colombo should take note of India's continuing endeavours to help to find a negotiated settlement without further delay and loss of life, it said.

Guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state prevented a group of government teachers attending a meeting with military authorities in Kilinochchi district in the north of the country Friday, residents said.

They said the guerrillas stopped a bus in which about 20 Tamil teachers were travelling and turned them back.

Column catches one-ton carp

MUSCAT (R) — An Omani has caught a 1,000 kilogramme carp, which local fishermen claim is the biggest caught in 40 years. The Oman News Agency said it took a group of fishermen two hours to help Mubarak Ibn Salem get the 6.7 metre fish out of water at Seeh, about 30 kilometres north of here.

S. Arabia to choose exemplary businessman

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (R) — Saudi Arabian King Fahd has ordered that a "Saudi businessman of the year" be named annually, the official Saudi Press Agency reported Saturday. The tradition was part of the drive in the country to boost economic and social development in the kingdom at the hands of Saudi nationals, according to the agency report. The nominee would also be chosen for his contribution to projecting the Saudi image at international forums dealing with worldwide humanitarian causes, it said. The Saudi Minister of Commerce Sulaiman Al Sulaimi told the agency that King Fahd wished to boost the role of the Saudi businessmen in "helping to make the kingdom flourish and play the role it seeks domestically and internationally."

Mr. Sulaimi will head the committee to whom nominees would be submitted by chambers of commerce and industry, the agency said. The nominated businessman would be awarded a medal in a ceremony accompanying the Saudi National Day.

312 houses destroyed in fire

HONG KONG (AP) — A fire that raged for more than 12 hours destroyed 312 houses in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, a Hong Kong newspaper reported Saturday. The Communist newspaper Ta Kung Pao, quoting a delayed dispatch from the China News Service, said the fire occurred Wednesday in Haikang county 400 kilometres south west of Canton. No injuries were reported in the blaze, which was started by a girl playing with fire, the newspaper said.

Princess Snowball killed by prospective mate

CHICAGO (R) — Princess Snowball, a polar bear at Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, was killed by Caesar, her prospective mate, the zoo said. The bears had been separated by a screen door for two weeks so they could get used to each other and the attack occurred after they came into physical contact for the first time, zoo spokesman Jean Baker said. The 700-pound (320-kilogramme) Princess Snowball, who was 20 years old, was killed by the 900-pound (410-kilogramme) Caesar just minutes after the two were placed in the same pen, Baker said. "He pined her down by the leg, then he attacked her," without mauling, said Baker, adding that such aggressive behaviour was not typical for polar bears. "We don't know for a fact how he killed her, but he did use his paws and his teeth," said Baker. An autopsy will be conducted on Snowball. Polar bears who are to be mated in captivity are introduced gradually so they can become accustomed to seeing and smelling each other before they touch, Baker said. Caesar, a 21-year-old polar bear on loan from a Tennessee zoo, had not behaved aggressively towards Princess Snowball during the two weeks they were kept apart by the screen door, she said. Princess Snowball, who had given birth to five cubs, was captured off the coast of Norway soon after her birth in late 1965, and was donated to the Chicago Zoo the following July.

Nepal's king opens 1st teaching hospital

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — King Birendra has formally opened Nepal's first teaching hospital, built in Katmandu by Japan under Tokyo's aid programme to the Himalayan kingdom. The dean of the \$11-million hospital's medical school, Madan Prasad Upadhyaya, said the 210-bed hospital "would make a great contribution towards making the country self-sufficient in trained medical personnel."

Honecker may visit Bonn soon

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany indicated Saturday that a visit by Communist chief Erich Honecker to West Germany could be arranged soon, but implicitly urged caution on Bonn leaders.

The Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland made an extremely rare reference to Western speculation about a visit when it quoted Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti as saying Germany should remain divided into two states.

"If Honecker visits the Federal Republic (West Germany), then he does so not as a tourist going into the provinces but as a head of state," it quoted him as saying.

The newspaper article, published in a column normally reserved for official commentaries, was the first East German reference to a visit since Mr. Honecker returned from the recent Soviet Communist Party Congress in Moscow.

Western diplomats here said they believed Mr. Honecker had discussed the possibility of a visit, the first ever by an East German head of state and Communist chief, with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Saturday's article suggested Moscow had not vetoed the plan.

Soviet officials are sensitive to what they regard as West German attempts to portray the 36-year-old division of Germany as temporary.

U.S., Soviets ready to guarantee Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union are ready to guarantee any Afghan peace settlement Islamabad and Kabul may work out, U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez said Saturday.

Mr. Cordovez said on arrival in Islamabad he hoped current preparations for the next round in the four-year search for a negotiated peace would be fruitful, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

The under secretary-general, who conducts indirect talks because Islamabad refuses to negotiate with Kabul, will meet Pakistani officials before leaving on Monday for consultations in the Afghan capital.

Mr. Cordovez, who has not revealed what he learned during a visit to Moscow last month, told a questioner both the United States and the Soviet Union were ready to be guarantors of a peace deal.

Washington announced its readiness last December but Moscow, which is widely expected to do the same, has not yet formally declared it will guarantee a settlement.

Afghanistan has publicly questioned Washington's sincerity in seeking a settlement.

The official Bakhtar News Agency said Friday the resignation of John McMahon, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), proved "the U.S. administration does not have the slightest interest in the solution of regional conflicts."

Mr. McMahon, who said he resigned for personal reasons, resisted plans to expand secret CIA paramilitary operations in developing countries, according to congressional sources.

Final polls predict narrow win for French opposition

PARIS (R) — Final opinion polls Saturday predicted a narrow absolute majority for the right-wing opposition in France's general election next weekend.

A poll by the Sofres Organisation in Le Figaro newspaper gave the opposition alliance of the UDF and RPR parties 44 per cent of the vote, enough to claim 297 of the 577 seats in the new parliament.

The poll gave the ruling Socialists 28 per cent and the Communists 10.5 per cent, with eight per cent support for the far-right National Front.

In the pro-government Le Matin an Ipsos Poll gave the opposition alliance 42 per cent and 292 seats compared to 31 per cent for the Socialists.

Under French law opinion poll results cannot be published in the week preceding the vote.

Political pundits say forecasting the result of the March 16 vote for the National Assembly is harder than usual because of the switch to proportional voting and an increase in the number of seats.

Le Matin's poll showed the French divided on what has emerged as the main issue of the campaign — whether President Francois Mitterrand can or should "cohabit" with a right-wing government.

The poll showed 46 per cent favoured "cohabitation," against 38 per cent who didn't, but 49 per cent said they thought it would not work successfully, against only 28 per cent who thought it would.

Socialist leaders have been warning of the risk of constitutional disorder if the right forms a government, telling voters that "cohabitation" will be a risky venture.

Former Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy told a rally in his home city of Lille such an arrangement would be very difficult.

The Socialist warnings have echoed those of opposition maverick Raymond Barre, who alone among the major figures on the right says the system cannot work.

Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac told a rally in Rennes Friday night that Mr. Mitterrand and the Socialists were destroying the credibility of France's institutions by their warnings.

"When one is inside the house, one should avoid undermining the foundations," Mr. Chirac said.

"If everyone respects the laws of democracy ... and the constitution, there will be no problem," he said.

'New evidence' found on Waldheim Nazi charges

VIENNA (R) — The Austrian magazine which launched the controversy over former United Nations chief Kurt Waldheim's alleged links with the Nazis has unearthed new evidence to support the charges.

But Mr. Waldheim, campaigning to be elected Austrian president on May 4, has again denied he was a member of Nazi groups and suggested the allegations were connected with his candidacy.

The independent weekly magazine Profil has found a diary in the Vienna state court which refers to a form filled out in Waldheim's name in 1940 claiming membership of a Nazi "Brownshirts" (SA) organisation and of the Nazi Students' Federation.

Reuters has obtained a copy of a Profile article to be published with a facsimile of the diary on Monday, a week after the magazine first accused Mr. Waldheim of a Nazi past.

The diary — kept by a "denazification" officer responsible in 1946 for clearing Waldheim for service to the post-war Austrian state — refers to earlier documents, some of which have disappeared from official archives.

A crucial document mentioned in the form filled out in 1940 for permission to take up a legal post under the Nazi authorities who

annexed Austria in 1938.

According to the diary — whose authenticity Mr. Waldheim does not deny in an interview accompanying the report — the form said he joined the SA on Nov. 11, 1938, and the student organisation on April 1, 1938.

Although such a form was supposed to be completed personally and signed, Mr. Waldheim is quoted as saying:

"I've no idea if I was there at the time. My father very often did that kind of thing for me ... dealing with necessary documents in my absence ... he was very helpful."

The diary includes a note saying Mr. Waldheim joined an SA riding corps in order to be accepted for law service.

The Conservative presidential candidate, who was U.N. secretary general from 1972 to 1982, says he thought it expedient not to turn down an invitation to ride with a Nazi riding group, in order to protect his anti-Nazi family.

He himself never claimed or applied for SA membership, he told Profile, but his "candidacy" for such a status could have been assumed from such activities and this could be the cause of what he called the misunderstanding.

Mr. Waldheim wrote Friday to the World Jewish Congress and New York Times rejecting charges that he had a Nazi past.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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DEAR MR. GOREN:

Q — In a robber bridge game the other night I dealt myself ♠983 ♠104 ♣AKJ7 ♠A954

I opened the bidding with one diamond and partner responded one spade. Since we don't raise partner's major-suit response without four-card support, I chose one no trump for my rebid. Partner, who held a good hand including five spades to the ace-king, raised to three no trump. Unfortunately, the opponents took the first five heart tricks. Four spades would have made easy. Shouldn't my partner have rebid his spades to tell me he had five of them? Otherwise, what went wrong? J.D., Minneapolis, Minn.

A — Neither of you is as much at fault as your methods. Your system left you without a good rebid after partner's one spade response. You could not bid two clubs since that would tend to show as unbalanced hand when your hand was balanced; you could not rebid diamonds; and you could not raise spades. That forced you to bid no trump without a stopper in the unbid major.

Your partner, with a balanced hand and a five-card spade suit, could do little more than raise to game unless you employed some method of checkback. A rebid of two spades would have been an underbid and a jump to three

spades would have promised a better spade suit and an unbalanced hand.

The natural bid with your hand is a spade raise — you have three-card support for partner's suit and a ruffing value. True, you do not like raising with only three low cards in partner's suit, but partner should allow for that contingency in the subsequent auction.

Q — There is a player in our game who, when he is dummy, always lays down his trumps before the opening lead has been made. I find this distracting, but he insists that he is doing nothing wrong. What's your opinion? J.R., Atlanta, Ga.

A — Dummy should not lay down his cards until after the opening lead has been made. First of all, he might be assisting the defenders in finding an opening lead by revealing such an integral part of his holding. Secondly, he might be doing serious damage to his side.

Suppose that declarer wants to review the auction. The Laws of Contract Bridge permit the declarer to get a review of the auction "until he has played the first trick or dummy has spread any part of his hand." By laying down the trump suit prematurely, dummy has deprived declarer of this right.

Show the offender this column and ask him to eliminate his bad habit.

Reagan campaign for Nicaraguan rebel aid in top gear

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's all-out push for aid for Nicaraguan rebels is continuing with the naming of a special envoy to Central America and plans to pressure reluctant congressmen into line.

Mr. Reagan has waged an intense political and ideological battle for his proposed \$70 million in military aid and 30 million in humanitarian assistance to the "contra" rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government of Managua.

On Friday, he announced the appointment of presidential press secretary and veteran diplomat Philip Habib to his special representative to Central America and tried to beat back charges of White House "red-baiting" over the aid issue.

White House Spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan planned to hold meetings with congressmen every day next week in an effort to turn the tide of strong opposition on Capitol Hill.

The president also is expected to devote his weekly radio address to the subject and will make a speech to the nation on the aid package on March 16.

ABC News said Friday night that a poll it conducted earlier this week showed that three out of five Americans rejected the president's call for \$100 million in aid.

Mr. Habib, 66, has just returned

from a second mission to the Philippines where Mr. Reagan said he had played a key role in events surrounding that country's change of government.

The move was seen as an attempt to breathe new life into the administration's efforts to win approval of the aid but it was met with some scepticism among lawmakers.

"The timing of this suggests to me that this is a public relations mechanism," said Michael Barnes, a Maryland Democrat.

Mr. Habib, a shrewd and respected negotiator, has twice been called out of retirement to head U.S. mediating efforts in the Middle East. He was chosen last month to be the Reagan administration's eyes and ears in the Philippines during the final days of the 30-year rule of President Ferdinand Marcos.

The intense rhetoric from the White House that Nicaragua represents a Communist offensive against the United States and those who oppose the Contras are in effect helping the Communists has been slammed as "red-baiting" by some angry congressmen.

Barnes Friday called for the resignation of White House communications director Robert Abelson, who wrote an editorial in the Washington Post.

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being "with Moscow, co-guarantor of the Brezhnev doctrine in Central America."

A mid-signs the campaign could be backfiring, Mr. Reagan denied the "red-baiting" charges.

"There's no intent on my part to do that at all. I've not assailed anyone's motives in this. I'm simply stating facts," he told reporters.

Mr. Reagan also welcomed an offer by President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador to reopen talks with leftist rebels in his country by Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega began simultaneous discussions with the Contras. Mr. Reagan said Mr. Habib would follow up the initiative next week despite Managua's outright rejection of it.

The United States has refused to reopen discussions with Nicaragua unless the Sandinista government negotiates with the Contras, which it refuses to do.

Mr. Reagan said Congress must approve the aid package because it was "one of the tools" Mr. Habib would need to maintain pressure on the Sandinistas to talk with the American-sponsored rebels.

The State Department also issued a booklet reprinting "The ABCs of the Nicaragua Crisis" by a Congressional opponent.

throughout the region.

"While the United States was seeking to develop a positive relationship with the new revolutionary government in Nicaragua ... the Sandinistas viewed themselves as an integral part of a Communist world revolution and regarded the United States as their 'rabid enemy,'" the department said in an introduction.

Meanwhile the Soviet News Agency TASS Saturday accused Washington of hypocrisy in appointing Mr. Habib as its special Central American envoy.

It said the White House was trying to present his appointment as an attempt to find a diplomatic solution to the Central American crisis but President Reagan's real aim was the overthrow of the Nicaraguan government.

Mr. Habib's shuttle diplomacy had long been "notorious," it said, adding that in the Middle East, it had been used as a "distracting manoeuvre" when Israel was preparing to invade Lebanon.

TASS said Mr. Habib was now planning to visit El Salvador to discuss new proposals by Mr. Duarte.

But these proposals amounted to "advancing unacceptable demands" to the Nicaraguan authorities and equating "butchers" from Contra units armed by the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) with the "lawful government of Nicaragua."